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REBEL CHIEF WEST NOT SENDING MILITARY AID

Paris LE MATIN in French 23 Dec 81 p 12

[Interview with Amin Wardak, a resistance chief]

[Text] "Western newspapers have often written that the Afghan resistance was getting foreign aid. This is not true. At the most, they have sent us several hundred meters of cloth, some thousands of pairs of shoes, a little tea--but never any arms, contrary to what Soviet propaganda claims. The reports about the alleged deliveries of military supplies which have appeared in the western press are doing us a disservice because they feed the propaganda of the Soviets and their allies."

Amin Wardak is bitter. He is in France at the invitation of the European Parliament, and he asserts that European public opinion is in the process of forgetting about Afghanistan. With his round beard and turban knotted like a cockscomb, he is promoting the contrary despite his western dress. He left the troops he commands in Wardak Southeast of Kabul for several weeks to remind the West that the fighting and dying are continuing in his country.

According to him, the Afghan rebels are in complete control of the countryside. He reminds them that they have been attacking the towns for several months. "This is precisely because we do not have any arms, so we cannot go any farther. We are defending the Free World, but the Free World is not helping us. We took our arms from the enemy. The mines that we lay on the roads were made from Soviet bombs we salvaged when they did not explode. We are being aided with words only."

Although he appreciates the gesture, he does not believe anymore in the effectiveness of the humanitarian campaigns which have been organized in Europe. For example, the radio stations: "I never have understood them. They are all in the hands of the fundamentalists and talk about themselves and the Soviet soldiers in all respects, so no one listens to them. And then, it is too dangerous because they make us reveal our position, and that can risk being bombed more."

In the Wardak region, Amin controls some 80,000 families. He can mobilize 200,000 "combatants", but he explains: "I have just 30,000 rifles and 60,000 rounds of ammunition. It is not possible to fight with two rounds of ammunition per man. And this limits our opportunities greatly."

Meanwhile, he is still convinced that the Afghans are in the process of winning their war of liberation. "The only solution for the Soviets would be to establish military posts everywhere; but for that, they would need 500,000 more men because they do not have more than 15,000 Afghan [government] soldiers, and they are afraid to fight."

CHANGES IN DOMESTIC, FOREIGN POLICIES OUTLINED

Paris LE MONDE in French 1 Dec 81 p 3

[Article by D.J.: "The Changes Occurring Since Boumediene's Death Carried Out With Prudence and Skill"]

[Text] The Algeria that is welcoming Mr Mitterrand is very different from the one that hosted Giscard d'Estaing in 1975. But the transformation has been carried out with such prudence and political skill that it is still not very clear. Numerous Frenchmen are still living under an impression from the past, that of an Algeria which is "self-confident and domineering," launched on a gigantic industrial challenge, dreaming of becoming "the Japan of the Mediterranean," playing a motivating role in international forums, and setting for itself the mission of "model for the third world." In other words, an Algeria in the image of its president Houari Boumediene, a strong-willed, determined dictator, endowed with an unusual capacity for work, who was primarily interested in developing a modern state, opening his country up to technology and science, and creating economic foundations whose independence would not be purely superficial.

Abroad, the struggle against imperialism was not to be subject to concessions. Algeria was a besieged fortress. The beginning of the Western Sahara war had brought about more radicalization and an increased rapprochement with Moscow, the exclusive weapons supplier of the people's national army, and a radical deterioration in relations with France and with moderate African countries. Algeria, which had put up with its neighbors' "reactionary" regimes for a long time, now advocated a "Maghreb for the people." Nobody risked disputing, at least openly, this immense personal power, supported by omnipresent and all-powerful security forces. The FLN, reduced to an apparatus devoid of physical and human resources and fairly widely discredited among the popular masses, performed, at the most, the role of a submissive driving belt.

A Practical Head of State

Three years after President Boumediene's death, Algeria is already presenting a radically different face. President Chadli Bendjedid has had a lot to do with this. This 52-year-old colonel, who left the administration of Oran's military region in 1979 to enter the supreme court system, readily acknowledges that he owes everything to the army: first the army of liberation, which he joined as early as 1955 immediately following the start of the insurrection; then the one

he helped hammer into a modern and effective weapon after independence. From his simple origins, he has retained a taste for proportion, a sense of realism, and a demand for social justice. This pragmatist distrusts ideologies, but nonetheless has firm convictions. He is above all a nationalist, concerned primarily with independence.

Imposed by the army, which solved in this way the conflict pitting Mr Bouteflika, then Minister of Foreign Affairs, against Mr Yahiaoui, the party's organizer, at Boumediene's death. Mr Bendjedid first had to consolidate the power challenged by the "regime's barons" and impose his authority. He gradually did it without provoking a crisis or open defiance. Clashes and conflicts between people or factions went on behind the organizations' closed doors.

The political ouster of Messrs Yahiaoui and Bouteflika last July constituted the last step in the process. The head of state now exercises the plenitude of his duties. As Minister of Defense, he closely controls the army and its security forces, whose leadership was recently reshuffled. As Secretary General of the FLN, he directs the party's operations and has entrusted the control of its organization, which used to be ensured by Mr Yahiaoui, to an old campaigner, Mr Messaadia, who has his full confidence. Finally, as head of state, he has extensively renovated the cabinet, bringing in new men. At the domestic level, President Chadli Bendjedid first of all focused his efforts on erasing the scars of past wounds. Proof of this is the release of Ben Bella, the real "iron mask" of the Algerian revolution, thrown into prison by Boumediene after the "revolutionary rectification" of 19 June 1965. Further evidence is the return of well-known opponents like Col Tahar Zbiri, the lifting of measures taken against Messrs Ferhat Abbas and Ben Khedda, "guilty" of having distributed a manifesto in favor of democracy in 1976, and above all the freedom with which the subject of the history of the national movement and the war for independence, which has been taboo until now, is discussed in official seminars or the press.

A Break in Industrialization

It is undoubtedly in the economic and social areas that the "adjustments" are most perceptible. A break is noted with regard to industrialization, and improved management and increased production are being emphasized. Reorganization, decentralization, and "Algerianization" are the themes of Mr Brahimi, the Minister of Planning. To complete the great industrial centers established at Arzew, Algiers, Skikda, or Annaba, the authorities want to set up a complete system of small and medium-sized public and private enterprises. This is because the private entrepreneur is no longer considered a "parasite," but rather a necessary ally of the revolution, who only has to be supervised and whose enterprise has to be directed. Finally, agriculture has been revitalized and is benefitting from a real priority status. Algeria, whose population today numbers 20 million, will have almost double this figure by the end of the century. But it covers scarcely half of its nutritional needs.

This pragmatic policy is being matched by an effort to improve the living conditions of the people: improved procurement, the development of systems of distribution, construction of housing, the establishment of new sanitary and social equipment, etc. The theme of the FLN's extraordinary conference in June 1980,

"for a better life," is not just a slogan; and progress, while slow, is beginning to make itself felt.

President Chadli Bendjedid expresses this concern with adhering to reality and taking the world and people as they are at the foreign policy level too. The desire to preserve the revolutionary legacy, which gives Algeria its standing in the third world, is moderated by a concern with bringing the country out of its relative isolation at the regional level and breaking a private, sometimes difficult dialogue with Colonel Qadhdhafi's Libya. Hence the decision at the end of 1979 to try to improve relations with France; the rapprochement with Tunisia, further facilitated by Mr Nour's disappearance from the political scene; and the charm offensive directed towards the moderate African states, including Senegal and Ivory Coast, in the spring of 1981. Today Algeria is on good terms with all of its neighbors, with the exception of Morocco.

A Stricter Non-Alignment

However, Algeria has returned to a stricter concept of non-alignment and is keeping Moscow at arm's length, without going to the extreme of throwing itself into the arms of the United States. Washington's policy in the Middle East and the Western Sahara would not allow that anyway. Hence Algiers is seeking European partners instead, not only in the economic area, but in order to diversify its weapon transactions as well, since the monopoly held in this area by the Soviets is detrimental to the true independence of a country in which approximately 2,000 military advisors from Moscow are serving.

On the ideological level, finally, "Chadli's Algeria" is emphasizing its Arab-Islamic heritage. The head of state has made two trips to Mecca and has made an effort to erase the impression in other Arab countries of a "communist," atheist, and westernized Algeria. Boumediene did not believe in Islam as an agent for the transformation of society. Aware of the extraordinary vitality of a progressive Islam, long left to itself and vulnerable to all the outside influences, leaders today are trying to bring this phenomenon under control and further a progressive Islam.

The regime is now the object of various challenges. Marxists are condemning its "turn to the right." On the other hand, Muslim fundamentalists and Arab nationalists are taking the head of state to task for not going far enough. Some are demanding the pure and simple application of the shari'ah, the Islamic law; others, an assertion of Algeria's membership in the "Arab nation." The regime also has to face the challenge of the Kabyles, who, in the name of Algeria's Berber past, are disputing the reference to Arabism and demanding the right for their language to exist. But the basic cultural problem is that posed by the permanence of French language and culture. The proximity of the former colonial power, the presence on its soil of 1 million French Algerians, and the weight of a still very recent past, render futile the hopes of those who dream of total rupture. Mr Mitterrand's France has a difficult task to perform.

KHALID MUHYI AL-DIN GIVES VIEWS ON CURRENT POLITICAL SITUATION, CAMP DAVID

Cairo AL-SIYASI in Arabic No 323, 15 Nov 81 p 7

[Interview with Khalid Muhyi al-Din, chairman of National Progressive Unionist Grouping Party [NPUG], by Khayriyah Sha'lan: "I Oppose Camp David But I Don't, at Present, Demand Abolishing It"]

[Text] Khalid Muhyi al-Din, chairman of the leftist party, has talked to AL-SIYASI and has answered some questions raised in the political arena on the party's position toward the Islamic groups and the Islamic current, on his conception of political action and opposition in the coming phase and on the story of the expected meeting with President Husni Mubarak.

[Question] To start with, AL-SIYASI asked the Grouping Party chairman: Has the party asked for a meeting with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak?

[Answer] When Mustafa Kamil Murad, the Liberal Party leader, contacted me to issue a statement against violence, I asked, in addition, for release of the detained. We agreed to form a committee in which the three [opposition] parties are represented to prepare a statement in this regard.

When Mustafa Kamil Murad asked about our position vis-a-vis the election of the president, I said that the General Secretariat would meet but that we would not nominate him [Mubarak]. I also asked him to convey, if possible, the party's wish to meet with the president to explain our reasons for not electing him.

The Liberal Party leader said: This is possible but it may not be realized before the referendum. So I said to him: It can be held after the referendum.

Our view of the existing situation has reached the president before the meeting for which no date has yet been set. This is up to the president.

[Question] How does the NPUG envisage political action in the coming phase?

[Answer] Egyptian political forces must restore the country to normalcy and root out violence because violence obstructs the growth of the Egyptian people's creative ability to protect their national, political and economic independence, develop and enhance their democratic institutions and strengthen their Arab and international ties. The special circumstances and the fight against violence

affect the nation negatively. We have an interest in the organized and serious cooperation of all forces to end these conditions.

[Question] How do you envisage the opposition's role in the coming phase?

[Answer] The opposition must express and unite its opinion on the important issues in the required legal manner. Regardless of how dangerous any opinion is, it is still less dangerous than what has happened.

The opposition performs its duty by expressing its opinion on the existing conditions through its program and through temporary programs to deal with some issues.

[Question] Do you expect a coalition to be established among the parties in the coming phase to deal with the problems prevailing in the country?

[Answer] I do not believe that there is as much need for a coalition as there is for the cooperation of all the national forces and parties in fighting the causes of violence politically and intellectually and in proposing the economic and social policies needed to root out the causes of violence.

[Question] What is your comment on what has been said about your being included in the Islamic groups' lists of those to be assassinated?

[Answer] This doesn't worry me because whoever engages in political action will inevitably create for himself extraordinary circumstances, such as [the threat of] assassination, arrest or something else.

[Question] What is the party's position vis-a-vis the Islamic groups?

[Answer] We have no definite position toward the Islamic groups. I reject the term Islamic groups. However, we do have a position toward the Islamic political current that, in practical terms, has been in existence in Egypt since the beginning of this century and that cannot be disregarded.

[Question] Is there any change in the party's view of the Camp David accords?

[Answer] We have opposed and we continue to oppose Camp David and this opposition has been pointed out in the party's statements and at the time the Egyptian-Israeli treaty was concluded.

Now that less than 6 months remain until the date for regaining the Egyptian territories, I demand that we continue so as to regain the Egyptian territories.

Therefore, it is difficult for me now to ask President Mubarak to abrogate the Camp David agreement because the most important thing is to regain the Egyptian territories, considering the sacrifices and concessions already made, and not to bow to any pressure.

[Question] What is your opinion of Prince Fahd's peace plan?

[Answer] The party has not fully discussed Prince Fahd's plan. It will do so at the next Central Committee meeting, scheduled for 19 November.

From perusing the special points in Fahd's plan, we cannot reject the plan. But there are two points that need to be clarified:

First, the plan does not mention the PLO as the Palestinian people's legitimate representative.

Second, the plan doesn't state that the talks should take place within the framework of the UN and under the auspices of all the major powers and the nonaligned group.

[Question] If the party has reservations on Camp David and on Fahd's peace plan, then what is the alternative and how does the party conceive of a solution for the Palestinian problem?

[Answer] A sound strategy for solving the Palestinian issue must become a clear alternative to the strategy of the conservative Arab regimes that reject the policy of separate peace with Israel.

The desired strategy must define its general goal in the realization of a comprehensive, just and lasting peace instead of a separate peace.

Peace here means to transform the Middle East and Southwest Asia into a peaceful area free of foreign military bases and fleets and all forms of military links with foreign countries.

Peace cannot be realized without settling the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of recognition of the Palestinian people's right to repatriation, to self-determination and to the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on Palestinian soil and without the withdrawal of Israeli forces from all occupied Arab territories.

It is also impossible to realize this peace without the participation of all of the parties concerned in the efforts exerted to achieve this peace and without guarantees of the peace from the international community through the UN.

Moreover, this peace does not mean an end to the struggle against imperialism and Zionism and their objectives.

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CSO: 4504/94

OFFICERS OF PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES ELECTED; OPPOSITION INCLUDED

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Nov 81 p 3

[Article: "Officers of 18 People's Assembly Committees Elected; Opposition Representatives and Independents Included in Committee Offices"]

[Text] Members of offices of committees of the new People's Assembly session were elected yesterday at a short meeting held by the Assembly under the chairmanship of Dr Sufi Abu Talib. The meeting approved the committee formations in light of the wishes of the members.

A number of Labor Party members and independents were elected to the offices of the 18 committees. Eng Muhibb Istaynu, an independent, was elected chairman of the Housing Committee; Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, member of the Labor Party, was elected deputy chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee; and Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, an independent, was elected deputy chairman of the Health Committee. Following are the names of the committees' officers:

Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee: Hafiz 'Ali Badawi, chairman; Hanna Taruz Hanna and Mustafa Ghabashi, deputy chairmen; 'Abd al-Ghafur Abu Talib, secretary.

Planning and Budget Committee: Dr Muhammad Tulbah 'Uwaydah, chairman; Muhammad Nabil 'Abd al-Zahir Abu al-Su'ud and Mahmud al-Sayyid 'Abd al-Rahman, deputy chairmen; Yusuf Muhammad Siddiq, secretary.

Economic Affairs Committee: Fathallah Rif'at, chairman; Hasan 'Id 'Ammar and Muhammad Khalil Hafiz, deputy chairmen; Rif'at Batal, secretary.

Foreign Relations Committee: Dr Muhammad Ahmad 'Abdallah, chairman; Ibrahim 'Abd al-Hadi al-Dhahabi and Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, deputy chairmen; Dr Farakhandah Hasan, secretary.

Arab Affairs Committee: Muhammad Hamid Mahmud, chairman; Istifan Basili and Hasan Hafiz Fahmi, deputy chairmen; Ahmad Hasan Farraj, secretary.

Defense, National Security and National Mobilization Committee: Kamal Henry Badir, chairman; al-Sayyid Mahmud Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghaffar and Hazim Sabri 'Uthman Abu Sutayt, deputy chairmen; Tarq 'Abd al-Hamid al-Jundi, secretary.

Proposals and Appeals Committee: Mahmud Abu Wafiyah, chairman; 'Uways 'Abd al-Hamid 'Umar and 'Abdallah 'Ali Hasan, deputy chairmen; 'Abd al-'Aziz Mustafa Mahmud, secretary.

Manpower Committee: Husayn Wishahi, chairman; Mahmud Rajab al-Sa'di and Muhyi 'Abd al-Wahhab 'Abd al-'Aziz, deputy chairmen; Fathi 'Abdallah Bayyumi, secretary.

Industry and Energy Committee: Eng 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Habbak, chairman; 'Abd al-Rahman Sarhan and Sa'd 'Abd al-Wahid Taha, deputy chairmen; Muhammad Muhammad al-Jawhari, secretary.

Agriculture and Irrigation Committee: Muhammad Mahdi Shuman, chairman; William Najib Sayfayn and 'Abd al-Tawwab al-Muhandis, deputy chairman; Ihab Kassab, secretary.

Education and Educational Research Committee: Dr Muhammad Kamil Laylah, chairman; Nasr 'Abd al-Ghafur Jum'ah and Fatimah 'Anan, deputy chairmen; 'Umar Muhammad 'Atiyah, secretary.

Religious, Social and Religious Trusts Affairs Committee: Muhammad 'Ali Ibrahim Mahjub, chairman; Nawal 'Amir and Mahmud Muhammad al-Farran, deputy chairmen; Imtithal al-Dib, secretary.

Culture, Information and Tourism Committee: Dr Suhayr al-Qalamawi, chairman; Mustafa 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Shafi'i and Fayidah Mahmud Kamil, deputy chairmen; 'Uthman al-Qardawi, secretary.

Health and Environmental Affairs Committee: Dr Hamdi Mahmud al-Sayyid, chairmen; Dr Zaynab Hamid al-Sabaki and Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, deputy chairmen; Dr Ahmad Sa'd Hasan Yunus, secretary.

Transportation and Communications Committee: Eng Muhyi al-Din 'Abd al-Latif, chairman; Abu al-Yamin Muhammad Isma'il and Abu Zayd Muhammad 'Awadallah Sulayman, deputy chairmen; 'Abd al-'Al 'Abd al-Wahhab al-Jarihi, secretary.

Housing, Public Utilities and Reconstruction Committee: Eng Muhibb Ramzi Istaynu, chairman; Fathi Lutfi al-Rifa'i and 'Adli 'Abd al-Shahid, deputy chairmen; Kamal al-Din Muhammad Badawi, secretary.

Local Government and Popular Organizations Committee: 'Abd al-Fattah al-Dali, chairman; Husayn al-Mahdi and Mukhtar 'Uthman Abu Bakr, deputy chairmen; Yusuf al-Sayyid Rakha, secretary.

Youth Committee: Sami Abazah, chairman; 'Abd al-Rahim al-Ghul and Qadri Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim, deputy chairmen; 'Atiyah Abu Sari', secretary.

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CSO: 4504/81

PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY SPEAKER DISCUSSES ROLE OF OPPOSITION

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 81 p 3

[Interview With Dr Sufi Abu Talib, People's Assembly speaker, by Fu'ad As'ad: "People's Assembly Speaker and Frank Dialogue on Parties' Task in Most Delicate Phase of Political Action; President Mubarak's Initiative Has United Political Parties Behind One Goal: Egypt; Will New Parliamentary Session Witness Honeymoon Between Majority and Opposition; date and place not given]

[Text]. This Is Opposition's Constitution: Opponent Is One Who Abides by Principles of July and May Revolutions and by State Constitutional System; Adversary Is One Who Wants To Destroy July and May Revolutions, Even Destroy Everything; It Is Right of Opposition To Have Government Consult It on All National Issues; Tendency Toward Violence Has Become 'Condition of Sickness' Which Must Be Faced and Tackled by Agencies Concerned; How Can Verbal Dialogue Become Alternative to Exchange of Bullets."

On the good earth--the earth of the Egyptian village--and amidst a crowd of genuine villagers, this interview was conducted with the People's Assembly speaker at his village in al-Fayyum.

It was natural for the discussion to focus on democracy, the opposition and terrorism.

With the clear mind for which he is well known, Dr Sufi Abu Talib has defined many of the features of domestic political action in the coming phase.

The People's Assembly speaker has differentiated between an opponent and an adversary.

An opponent abides by the principles of the July and May revolutions whereas an adversary wants to destroy the July and May revolutions, even destroy everything.

He has stressed that harmony between the government and the opposition is a fundamental demand and is the basis for the relationship between the two sides. He has also stressed that this doesn't mean a decline of the opposition's role in political action and that the sphere of action open to the opposition will be very broad.

Dr Sufi Abu Talib has also asserted that all the political parties shoulder a major role in conducting a dialogue with the youth and in familiarizing them with the viewpoints of Muslim jurisprudents so that their thinking does not continue to be confined to the viewpoints of the terrorist groups. Abu Talib has said that it is not yet too late and that the door is still open for a dialogue with words instead of an exchange of bullets.

[Question] Recently, there has been a rapid succession of developments on the political scene. President Husni Mubarak has taken the initiative to meet with the leaders of the opposition parties and with the independents in the People's Assembly. This is a great tradition which has had the greatest impact on all the citizens. For their part, the opposition parties have proceeded to hold press conferences, announcing their support for the general policy declared by the president in his speech before the People's Assembly and the Consultative Council. What is your conception of the opposition role in this delicate phase that is being undergone by Egypt?

[Answer] I am personally happy with this approach. The opposition parties, including the Labor Party, the Liberal Party and the independents, supported President Husni Mubarak openly when he was nominated. Moreover, they were not content with this and each of them proceeded to issue a statement to the people urging them to elect President Husni Mubarak in the referendum presented to the people.

The initiative taken by President Husni Mubarak indicates and proves that Egypt stands as one man in times of crisis and that the opposition has begun to comprehend the true meaning of opposition. Perhaps this constitutes the beginning of a climate under which we will be able to differentiate between opponents and adversaries. An opponent, or the opposition in general, is an indivisible part of the system. In England, they say "the government of her majesty the queen" and "the opposition of her majesty the queen" because both are part of the system and are expected to exchange control of the government. But the enemies, or adversaries, of the system want to destroy the system in its entirety.

Regrettably, what happened prior to the 5 September decrees is that many of the enemies of the regime infiltrated the opposition ranks, whether in the press or in the conferences. Perhaps the opposition will start anew, especially since the president has met with it, meaning that it will perhaps now differentiate fully between opponent and adversary.

An opponent abides by the July and May revolutions and by the existing constitutional and legal system, even though he may have a different opinion on certain issues. But an adversary wants to destroy the July revolution and the May revolution and destroy everything. The opposition must not permit these adversaries to infiltrate its ranks.

This is a good start on the part of the opposition, and the National Party, in its capacity as the majority party, must reciprocate it, meaning that it must not get annoyed with the opposition, especially if it is constructive and objective. The National Party must accept counter opinion and must fight argument with argument.

I believe that President Husni Mubarak's initiative and the positive start begun by the opposition parties in supporting his nomination are a very important indicator because the opposition has abandoned the old practice existing before 1952 and has initiated a new method of democratic action.

What Remains for Opposition

[Question] Let us imagine that the political parties will rise above the level of partisan disputes, as the president, in his interview with AL-AHRAM, expects them to do; then what rights will the parties continue to have vis-a-vis the government and the ruling party? In other words, what area is left for these parties in which to engage in their opposition?

[Answer] The parties have risen above partisan disputes in national matters, and this is a duty. The late President al-Sadat hinted at this when he told the National Party's first congress: "Egypt above all." This means that where national affairs are concerned, we must be one man. When Shimon Peres, the Israeli opposition leader, visited me at the People's Assembly last week, I asked him about the peace treaty. He said: "I am in the opposition but where national issues are concerned, the opposition and the government are one man and one opinion."

President Mubarak's words that the opposition should rise above partisan disputes means that the national issues must be discussed with the opposition as they are discussed with the National Party and that all must abide by what is agreed upon.

Therefore, it is the right of the opposition that the government familiarize it and consult with it on national issues, as happened during the cabinet of Dr Mustafa Khalil when he included the Labor Party in the peace treaty while it was being negotiated. Ibrahim Shukri was the Labor Party chairman at the time and he attended the cabinet session. As long as a certain thing is decided and as long as the opposition is a partner in the decision, then the opposition must defend this decision with the same enthusiasm with which the majority party defends it.

This is a democratic tradition followed in all the democratic countries. The same tradition exists in Britain and in France. In the United States, we have seen both the Republicans and the Democrats come together to convey condolences on the death of President al-Sadat and we have heard both sides speak of their support for Egypt and about the peace treaty.

There remain then two things for the opposition:

First, to observe the implementation of what has been agreed upon. Should the government or the majority party swerve from what is agreed on, the opposition can declare: We have not agreed to this.

Second, domestic affairs: The door of opposition is fully open here and the sphere of activity is wide open, especially since the opposition is supposed to have a party program of action different from the program adopted by the majority party on the major issues.

For example, the National Party's approach concerning the newly reclaimed land and desert land is based on a certain system that distributes these lands to cooperative companies and associations. A segment of the opposition, such as the Liberal Party, says: No, open the land without restrictions. The Labor Party puts greater stress on cooperatives than on companies.

Another example is the elections system. Some parties adopt the system of the--absolute--majority list. The opposition says: I approve the list but by a relative majority. This is a fundamental difference. Thus, the arena for the opposition is very wide and broad, especially since we are in a stage of social and economic transformation.

Things have been often amended in the People's Assembly not only as a result of discussions within the National Party's Parliamentary Committee but also as a result of discussions with the opposition in the People's Assembly, and this is necessary.

[Question] This means that the harmony existing at present between the majority and the opposition may have its impact on the next parliamentary session, which may witness a honeymoon between the majority and the opposition?

[Answer] The rule is for harmony to exist between the opposition and the majority. This is the rule in political action. This harmony doesn't mean completely identical viewpoints. The viewpoints should disagree on matters meriting such disagreement. Moreover, the viewpoints may agree or disagree on matters (compatible with) the programs of both parties.

Aspects of Criticism Against Opposition

[Question] In your capacity as speaker of the People's Assembly, you have lived with the parliamentary opposition throughout the past 5 years. What, frankly and without any civilities, are the most prominent points of criticism that can be levelled against the opposition in the preceding period?

[Answer] I must clearly distinguish between what takes place under parliament's roof and what takes place outside it. I will have nothing to do with discussing what occurs outside parliament and what is written in the opposition press.

I will confine my words to what takes place under parliament's roof.

I have several observations. On many national issues, such as the peace treaty, the opposition agreed with the majority party. The opposition had been defending this viewpoint when suddenly, last year, I found something surprising, namely, that the opposition started to oppose anything that pertained to implementation of the peace treaty, such as normalization, trade agreements and so forth--all of which are natural results of the peace treaty and which the opposition had previously approved. This [shift] is unacceptable because the destinies of nations are not so easily determined.

Another observation is that on many issues, the opposition had an objective criticism in which its viewpoint agreed with that of the majority. But at other times, some members of the opposition strayed from sound opposition and started talking about issues with no purpose other than provocation.

[Question] President Husni Mubarak has asserted that if the arena is left free for the terrorist groups, then democracy itself will be in danger and the parties will not be able to survive and to perform their role in democratic action. This is very true. What is the role that the political parties can play in confronting this terrorism and is there a solution whereby verbal dialogue becomes an alternative to the exchange of bullets?

[Answer] This issue is very important and fundamental. The political parties, be they majority or minority parties, and all the government agencies must give this issue the proper attention. We must first look for the causes of the emergence of the phenomenon of terrorism and must then define the means to cure this phenomenon so that the dialogue will be with words instead of with pistols and guns.

The causes of the phenomenon are that the state of fragmentation in which Egypt was found in the wake of the 1967 defeat generated a feeling of despair among some people. When in despair, a man turns spontaneously to God and to religion.

That phase--the phase of aimlessness and despair--was ended completely by the 1973 war. Then followed the democratic climate spread by President al-Sadat's regime in the wake of the May revolution and the parties came into existence. A democratic dialogue was supposed to take place between the majority and the minority.

What actually happened is that some groups isolated themselves completely from society and refused to engage in a dialogue. These groups' isolation and rejection of the dialogue led them to brand the entire society as being outside Islam and outside religion. So, the Renunciation and Repudiation Group, the Jihad Group and others came into existence. These groups are the extension of old thinking that had existed previously in Islam, namely, the thinking of al-Khawarij.... Their method is unacceptable to both Islam and democracy.

So how can you bring these groups back to the dialogue in a civilized nation whose religion, Islam, calls for dialogue and prohibits the use of violence and force?

A condition of sickness has developed among a group of people and the tendency toward violence has become an illness.

What concerns me is the youth sector, which is the major sector attracted by these sick people. Why? Because, as President Husni Mubarak has said in his interview, the arena was free.

The youth may adopt the viewpoint of a jurist in certain times but fail to listen to the viewpoints of other jurists, even though they rely on the rules of the Book [Koran] or of the Sunna. Here, the role of the Islamic call agencies, namely al-Azhar and the Ministry of Religious Trusts, is a very major one.

I ask here: Where were these agencies when certain books with certain ideas were being propagated among the youth?

It was their duty to present the other viewpoint, to familiarize the youth with it, to tell the youth that the ideas they adopted swerve from Islam and that the right opinion is this or that or that. The youth did not hear such words in the mosque, in the church, in the school or even on the radio.

Here is where the role of the political parties--the National Party, the Labor Party and the Liberal Party--emerges. It is not yet too late. The thought and religious affairs secretariat of each of these parties has the important and enormous role of getting together with the youth, explaining matters to them and engaging in dialogue with them. But if we leave the youth as they are without dialogue and then say that they have deviated from the right path and adopted destructive ideas, then we are responsible [for their deviation].

The Ministry of Religious Trusts and al-Azhar must unify the Islamic call programs and coordination must be established between the two sides. Organized training courses must also be conducted for the Islamic call men and for mosque preachers.

So as a society, we shoulder a major duty and we must begin carrying out this duty quickly.

Society's Rule Is Islamic

[Question] Assuming that there is a group that believes in religious thought as a means toward government, that this group is proven to be as far as possible from the terrorist groups, that it is proven that the group has a sound and enlightened Islamic awareness, that it wants to engage in political action and assuming that it submits a political program based on the concept that the Islamic Shari'ah is the basis of government then what would be the political and constitutional position toward this group?

[Answer] This is an important question. The Egyptian constitution states clearly that Islam is the official religion of the state and also states clearly that the Islamic Shari'ah is the main source of legislation. What does this mean? It means that rule must be based on the principles of the Islamic Shari'ah and that the laws issued by the state must be derived from the Islamic Shari'ah. If we don't find in the Islamic Shari'ah a ruling on the details and particulars of a certain issue, such as modern financial dealings, we can derive from the general principles of the Islamic Shari'ah a ruling compatible with the spirit of this Shari'ah.

Should groups demanding the application of these principles emerge, then the entire Egyptian society is supposed to follow these principles and no single group should lay exclusive claim to them. All the parties must adopt this inclination. This is why the parties law states clearly that the principle from which no deviation is permitted is the principle of "the Islamic Shari'ah as a main source of legislation."

So, no group can claim for itself the exclusive governing of society in accordance with Islam and with the Shari'ah because this is a fundamental demand of the constitution and because all the referendums have been unanimous on this demand. Thus, this demand is a unanimous demand of all of the citizens, all of the parties and all of the organizations. So, no group can emerge in society and claim this position exclusively.

Obedying Ruler

[Question] There is another question: Who has the right to say whether this conduct or behavior is compatible or conflicting with Islam?

[Answer] It is the ruler. "Obey God, the Prophet and your guardians." This is a Koranic phrase. Who is the guardian? According to Islam, the guardian is the president of the republic to whom the rule has been entrusted by the people, by the state's constitutional institutions, by the People's Assembly, by the Consultative Council, by the government and by all the constitutional institutions. This is the guardian in the Islamic concept.

Should the guardian say his word, then no group should rise to claim that it has guardianship above his. This is the confusion that has emerged among some groups and some sects in Egypt as a result of or on the basis of the Shi'ite thought, which is represented in Iran by Khomeyni. Khomeyni and the Shi'ites in Iran follow a principle different from the principle we follow. In Iran, they believe that the imam is infallible and, consequently, cannot be brought to account and that his word is law. Only some Shi'ite sects believe in this principle. As for the Sunna sects and the other Shi'ite sects, they do not believe in this principle but rather relieve in consultation. The viewpoints may disagree but they then agree [after consultation] on an opinion by which all abide.

Some even go as far as saying: If the guardian [ruler] orders us to fast an entire day, then we must fast an entire day.

So, the mistake that some Egyptians or some Egyptian groups have committed is that they have set themselves up as rulers above the state and above the guardian, saying that their action is compatible with Islam, whereas actually it is in violation of Islam.

An Islamic society is the demand of all. But an Islamic society doesn't mean that the Christians have no rights. No, they have the same rights we do and shoulder the same duties we shoulder. They are our equals in rights and duties. We must leave the followers of the book--non-Muslims--to their religion, meaning that personal status affairs, such as marriage and divorce, must be left to the rules of their religion. By nature, Islam is a tolerant religion.

We conclude from this that nobody, whoever he is, can claim for himself guardianship over the group or the power control the group's conduct. Rather, he should obey the authority of the group. The society with all its agencies must make this concept clear to the youth.

[Question] Now that the discussion has led to the Islamic society, may we ask: What point have the steps of the committees formed by the People's Assembly to codify the Islamic Shari'ah, i.e., turn it into laws, reached?

[Answer] The People's Assembly has made great strides in this regard. But by nature, people are in a hurry insofar as matters pertaining to religion and conscience are concerned. Those who imagine that society can become an Islamic society if the hand of a thief is cut off or if an adulterer is stoned to death commit a grave error. This is not at all the case. What distinguishes the Islamic society is social solidarity and integration. If we can establish this solidarity and this integration, then we can impose deterrent punishment for those who deviate from society.

The People's Assembly has formed a group of committees that include a number of specialized al-Azhar men, legalists and judiciary men. We have so far finished formulating civil law in accordance with the Islamic Shari'ah. This law consists of more than 1,000 articles. We have also completed the law of ownership documentation pertaining to the documentation of sales, purchases and similar matters. This law consists of 400 articles. As for commercial law, which we have had since 1883, we have completed approximately half of it.

With regard to the penal code, we have completed codification of the articles pertaining to limitation and plea provisions of this code; what remains to be done is to formulate the general theory concerning this law.

The difficult issue facing us at present is the codification of modern financial transactions because the Islamic viewpoint on this matter is different from the modern viewpoint. But the efforts continue and we will reach successful solutions, God willing. The People's Assembly will start examining these legislations shortly.

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OPPOSITION LEADERS URGE GOVERNMENT-OPPOSITION COOPERATION AS ASSEMBLY OPENS

Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic No 173, 16 Nov 81 p 5

[Article: "Honeymoon Between Opposition and Government in People's Assembly"]

[Text] Dr Sufi Abu Talib has promised that all the parties will have a majority and a minority, even though he is a member of the National Party. Dr Abu Talib has also said that he will exert efforts to provide an opportunity to every inclination, to entrench the foundations of democracy and to open his heart to every opinion.

He has also said that this particular session [of the People's Assembly] requires us to consolidate our efforts to complete the march on the path of peace, democracy and prosperity.

The opposition has expressed its readiness to fully cooperate with the majority in the People's Assembly and has demanded that the minority [sic] and the government cooperate with the opposition to underline the new phase whose initiation was declared by President Husni Mubarak during his meetings with the chairmen of the opposition parties and with the independents.

This cooperation was stressed in statements of the opposition representatives at the opening People's Assembly session.

Ilfat Kamil, a deputy from the Liberal Party, stressed that this session will constitute a successful beginning for realization of the people's aspirations for development, democracy and peace.

The Liberal deputy also stated that cooperation between the government and the People's Assembly generally and cooperation with the opposition in particular will enrich the parliamentary action and will fully contribute to serving the masses and solving their urgent problems.

Deputy Kamil also demanded that the Assembly give priority in this session to solving the masses' problems without delay and that the government underline this aspect in its cooperation with the Assembly.

Dr Hilmi al-Hadidi, a Labor Party deputy, said that the outcome of the events which Egypt witnessed last month is the unity of opinion and of hearts because in crises the mettle of men hardens.

He also said that listening to opinions and counter opinions strengthens the foundations of democracy. This is the hope we seek and the method to which we should all adhere and [the course] we should follow.

Counselor Mumtaz Nassar, an independent, demanded that the mainstays of democracy be strengthened by constructive dialogue and that we rise to the level of our responsibility in facing the challenges that we must face with utter strength and determination.

Dr Ibrahim 'Awwarah, an independent, said: The opposition is happy with President Husni Mubarak's declaration during his meeting with us that the opposition is part of the system and that we are opponents and not adversaries.

Dr 'Awwarah added that he doesn't expect to find minority or opposition in this session and expects the Assembly to stand united behind leader Husni Mubarak.

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OPPOSITION LEADERS EXPRESS VIEWS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 10 Nov 81 p 9

[Article by Sharif al-'Abd: "Seven Economic Points Presented by President Mubarak for Dialogue; What Does Opposition Say?; Labor Party Chairman: Eliminating Waste Reduces Our Need for Investment and Imports; Liberal Party Chairman: Increase Individual Income and Eliminate Subsidy Gradually"]

[Text] The dialogue is open to all and this page publishes today the opinion of the two opposition parties. They raise numerous economic issues, the most important being the issue of eliminating waste before turning to new investments and imports. The Labor Party demands participation by the various companies in solving the problems of their workers, especially the problem of housing, so that the workers can devote their efforts to work and production. The Liberal Party demands a gradual abolition of the subsidies because they are turning into uncontrolled consumption and because a large part of the subsidies ends in the hands of opportunists and middlemen. The party also demands that consideration be given to raising annual individual incomes by a percentage equal to that of the rise in inflation.

Ibrahim Shukri, Labor Party chairman, has said that the points submitted by President Husni Mubarak in his statement [presumably to the People's Assembly] for discussion and study embrace a number of related issues that affect directly all development activities.

In talking about these issues generally, I believe that we must deal with an important aspect from which we all suffer and that has its clear impact on production, which, in turn, has its effects on all the issues. This aspect is the increasing waste in many of our production sites. I mean here by waste all the aspects of extravagance, all the wasted production that does the consumer no service and all the idle and unexploited capacities. Perhaps if we checked the increase in the percentage of waste in the urban and rural factories and production units, we would find that by dealing with and eliminating this problem we would not need the current investment funds and would not need the current volume of foreign imports, which include an ever-increasing number of goods that undoubtedly exhausts our foreign currency reserves. It is indisputable that if the idle capacities had participated in the development activities with the required positive efficiency instead of being where they are and instead of representing a real burden to the production costs, we would have realized much

better results. Let us take water as an example. Do we really need to build new water plants and do we need new investments to produce more water to deal with the crisis of interrupted water supplies in numerous areas or do we need a fundamental cure for the phenomenon of water loss? Studies have proven that 50 percent of the drinking water produced goes to waste, either flowing into the public sewers or seeping into the soil in the rural areas without being used. The studies have also shown that water consumption in all of the government departments hardly changes between working days and holidays. This is happening at a time when we find one program after another for the construction of new water plants to meet the rising need for drinking water!

As for imports, I believe that current advertising and commercials in the information media must be reexamined. There is no doubt that the media tendency concerning luxury goods has its impact on consumption patterns, which turn toward more luxury imports. How can we then come and demand that luxury consumption be curtailed and streamlined [when the media encourage luxury consumption in their advertising]? Moreover, we import goods which we have all the components to produce locally. How can we import furniture when we used to export it in large quantities and when we have plants that, if given care and support, could meet the market needs at much lower prices than those of the imports that nowadays flood our markets? How can we import ready-made clothes and link such importation with meeting the consumer's essential needs by exempting these clothes from customs fees when an advanced ready-made clothing industry can be set up in our country, especially in the wake of the success realized by al-Mahallah al-Kubra plants, whose products are in no way inferior to the imports? Is this form of importation in the interest of the consumer? As for subsidies, I believe that if we move in long strides in the development projects, if we realize an increase in the national income and if we distribute this income properly, we will ultimately discover that the issue of subsidies will not be the primary issue and that it will be solved gradually and by the same degree by which we raise development rates. I am not one of those who support making the issue of subsidies the major issue at present. I believe, for example, that we must not think of raising bread prices under the current income averages and under the circumstances being encountered by our country. Rather, we must improve the bread and make it available and close all the gaps through which the subsidy may be misused.

As for housing, we must give priority to this intensifying crisis area. I believe that there has to be precise planning that takes into account all of the available resources, especially in the public sector companies, which represent 80 percent of these resources, and that these resources must be geared toward building simple housing.

Mustafa Kamil Murad, Liberal Party chairman, has said: On the basis of its program vis-a-vis the issue of the subsidies, which are rising at no less than 200 million pounds annually, the Liberal Party believes that it is necessary to formulate a new policy that seeks to make sure that the subsidies reach those who really deserve them and seeks to gradually eliminate the subsidies for some goods and raise wages commensurate with the burdens the citizen shoulders.

The danger of a continued policy of subsidies stems from the fact that it encourages increased consumption and encourages the misuse of some subsidized commodities, such as bread, which is used as fodder for livestock because it costs less than fodders. Moreover, if the subsidy policy continues in its present form, then we cannot expect an annual increase of less than 10 percent in the subsidy volume because of the annual growth in population of 1.2 million or a growth rate of 3 percent. This, in addition to increasing the citizens' cash income and to raising the minimum wage limits in order to achieve social justice, leads in turn to exhausting the state's sovereign revenues, such as taxes, customs fees and various other fees, and forces the government to borrow from the Central Bank by issuing banknotes in return for Egyptian treasury permits in order to meet the other governmental expenses. This currency issuance leads to inflation and, consequently, to increased hardships for the citizens. A complete policy can be formulated to abolish the subsidies gradually over a period of 5 years while raising wages by the same rates. For example, the price of subsidized sugar and oil can be raised by 2 piasters per kilogram and the price of a loaf of bread can be raised by 5 mils, while improving its quality, and so forth, until the prices, and the wages, become realistic. It is noted that a considerable percentage of the subsidy ends up in the hands of some opportunists and not the hands of the people who truly deserve it. This is evident in some flour mills and confectionary factories. The subsidy is no more than a wage paid in kind. It is unreasonable for the subsidized loaf of bread to be sold for 10 mils whereas a similar [unsubsidized] loaf is sold for 20 mils and you still find that people buy the 20-mil loaf because it looks better and tastes better. This demand for the 20-mil loaf is prevalent among all classes of the people. So what is the use of this subsidy? The same goes for (Castor) cloth material. A subsidized meter of this cloth is sold for 20 piasters but almost all the material available ends up in the black market to be sold at 40 piasters a meter while the consumer is unable to get the cloth at the subsidized price. Generally, we do not approve the constant fixing of prices and of wages because a dynamic economy compatible with an open-door economic policy requires the annual increase of wages at calculated rates compatible with the annual inflation rates. At the same time, the prices of all commodities and services must be raised at rates ranging from 5-10 percent annually. Such increases raise state revenues and, consequently, enhance its ability to raise wages annually. Moreover, such movement streamlines consumption and curtails the increased demand for consumption.

As for the public sector, it needs comprehensive reform. It is our opinion that the reform must start with the establishment of holding companies engaged in integrated economic activities, such as the economic organization established in 1957. These companies should include a bank, an insurance firm, commercial and industrial firms and transportation and tourism firms because this is compatible with the nature of the economic integration of various activities and because it enables such companies to expand and set up new firms in the various production spheres and to participate in the open-door economy. Holding companies play a fundamental role in correcting the course of the public companies' capital, in acting as guarantors for the public sector companies in local and foreign loans and in preparing the necessary economic feasibility studies to expand the activities of these companies, either by setting up new companies on their own or in participation with the private Egyptian, Arab or foreign sector.

The holding companies also approve the balances and estimated budgets of their subsidiary firms, establish coordination among them and help them solve their problems and eliminate the production obstacles arising between them and the government or any other side. These holding companies also take the public sector companies out of control of the government bureaucracy, which currently manages the public sector by way of the ministers or their deputies. The main obstacle in this situation is that the minister is eager to retain all of the companies under his control.

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OUTCOME OF INTERROGATION OF RADICAL RELIGIOUS DETAINEES REPORTED

Cairo MAYU in Arabic No 42, 16 Nov 81 p 3

[Article by Mahmud Salah: "Socialist Public Prosecutor: Investigation in Religious Radicalism Case Will Be Completed on 21 November; What Did al-Talmasani Say Before Socialist Public Prosecutor?; Interrogation of 492 Detainees Completed; Atonement and Migration Members: Egyptians Are Neither Muslims Nor Christians"]

[Text] The Socialist Prosecutor Office's investigation of the religious radicalism case is about to be completed. Of the 628 detainees who engaged in radical religious activity, 492 were interrogated by last Thursday, including the leaders of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group, the leaders of a number of Islamic groups and some radical Christian clergymen. It is expected that interrogation of all the detainees will be completed by 21 November 1981.

What has 'Umar al-Talmasani said before the socialist prosecutor? Is it true that Shaykh "Kishk" denied his connection with the Islamic groups? How did some members of the Renunciation and Repudiation Group come up with the legal opinion that the Egyptians are neither Muslims nor Christians?

What is the secret behind the inflammatory leaflets distributed by some Christian radicals?

From 15 September to 3 November 1981, the state security investigations submitted to the Socialist Prosecutor's Office information on 628 persons who had engaged in radical religious activity and who have been detained in the recent riots that threatened national unity, social peace and the country's safety.

How did the investigations in this case, known as case No 138 of 1981 concerning religious radicalism, start?

Timetable for Completing Investigation

The Socialist Prosecutor's Office deemed it fit to draw up a specific timetable for the political investigation so that it would be completed on a set date in order to determine the legal status of the detainees without prejudicing the guarantees to which they are entitled.

The timetable was founded on a division of the detainees into specific groups according to political activity: groups of detainees with activities extending into more than one district and other regional groups on the basis of the district in which they engaged in their activity, if the activity of a detainee did not go beyond a specific district.

The investigation of each group was then entrusted to a chief public prosecutor appointed to the Socialist Prosecutor's Office so that he could familiarize himself fully with the activity of the group and its members.

To achieve further coordination with the aim of uncovering the truth, counselor 'Abd al-Qadir Ahmad 'Ali, the socialist public prosecutor, holds periodic meetings in which he reviews with the investigators the outcome of their investigations. These meetings are also held for the purpose of finding out whether the investigations require further efforts to be completed so that they will be ready for use in their final form.

By last Thursday, 12 November 1981, the Socialist Prosecutor's Office had completed its investigation of 492 mosque imams and preachers, members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood group, members of the Renunciation and Repudiation group, the Hilmi 'Abd al-Ghayth group, the Yusuf al-Bawwab group, the Society for the Prevention of Vice and the Promotion of Virtue, the God's Party group and the radical Christian clergymen.

Not all the detainees belong to these groups. There are other detainees who belong to other groups, such as the Najib 'Abd al-Fattah group, the Muhammad 'Aql group, the Taha al-Samawi group, the Muhammad Salim al-Farmawi group and the Jihad Organization.

What Did 'Umar al-Talmasani Say?

During the investigations, 'Umar 'Abd al-Fattah 'Abd al-Qadir al-Talmasani stated that his political activities started with al-Wafd Party in 1923, that he joined the Muslim Brotherhood on its foundation, that he took part in its Guidance Office, that he had been detained several times before and that he was sentenced to a 15-year prison term at hard labor in 1954.

Al-Talmasani added that after his release in June 1971, he resumed his activity in advocating the Brotherhood's concepts in participation with other Brotherhood members through his articles in AL-DA'WAH, of which he is the chief editor, and through other magazines published at home and abroad. He added that part of what he had published in AL-DA'WAH was in opposition to Camp David and the normalization of relations with Israel.

Al-Talmasani acknowledged his connection with the Islamic groups, associations and organizations and said that he heads their general congress, that some leaders of the Islamic groups, associations and organizations are members of the Muslim Brotherhood group and that some of their members had met with him at universities, at symposiums, at camps and in the offices of AL-DA'WAH, of which he is the chief editor. He also stated that the Islamic groups have a program that is an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood's program.

Salih Mustafa al-'Ashmawi, who had been a member of the Muslim Brotherhood's Constituent Assembly and General Guidance Office and who had been selected as the Brotherhood's deputy chairman in 1947, stated that he agreed with 'Umar al-Talmasani, after the latter's release, to set up an Islamic publication house with him, 'Ashmawi, as the chairman of its board of directors to finance and publish AL-DA'WAH in a new form so that it would be an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood, even though the Brotherhood had been dissolved. The magazine's editions appeared without interruption from 1976 until August 1981. 'Ashmawi was the magazine's responsible publisher while 'Umar al-Talmasani was its chief editor.

One of the members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood who has been interrogated is Mahmud Sayyid Ahmad. When asked about his position vis-a-vis the correction revolution, Ahmad said that it had intensified the shackles to the point where it could no longer stand the opposition or its press.

When detainee Muhammad Ibrahim 'Abd al-Fattah Badawi, preacher of 'Imad al-Din mosque in Cairo, was asked [about the correction revolution], he lauded Iran's revolution and expressed his support for it. He also denounced the increasing U.S. aid to Egypt, saying that its aim is to curtail the Muslim progeny!

Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid 'Abd al-'Aziz Kishk, preacher of 'Ayn al-Hayah mosque in Dayr al-Malak, denied in the interrogation any connection with the leaders of the Islamic groups and denounced al-Azhar on the grounds that it does not graduate true preachers.

Another interrogated detainee was Majdi Muhsin Rajab Wardah, who stated that he had assumed leadership of the Islamic group at the Alexandria University School of Law as of 1977. Wardah also stated that he had written by hand a leaflet issued by the group and distributed it to the school students. The leaflet expressed opposition to participation by Muslims in non-Muslim holidays, urged the boycott of such holidays and lauded Iran's revolution.

Those interrogated include 'Abd al-Rahman Hasan 'Amir Abu al-Khayr, a member of the Renunciation and Repudiation group, who stated that this group believes that the Egyptian society and its system of government are pre-Islamic, infidel and atheist and that, therefore, emigration from this society must be preached. He described the security men as the "soldiers of a false god" because, in the group's view, they are the protectors of positional laws which the group rejects.

Abu al-Khayr added that the Egyptians (both Muslims and Christians) are neither Muslims nor Christians but people with a European culture. He also said that he is not concerned with the issue of national unity.

Samir al-Suqi al-'Azab acknowledged his membership in the Renunciation and Repudiation group and his connection with Shukri Mustafa, the group founder, as of 1974. He said that obeying the ruler in addition to obedience to God is an infidelity and that this is why he urges disobedience of the ruler. He also said that he doesn't frequent the mosques of the Muslims and doesn't pray in them because he is a recluse.

Jamal Dahi 'Abd al-Rasul, a member of the Islamic group in Asyut, stated that the present society is a pre-Islamic society, that the ruler is an infidel, that it is not a duty to obey him and that it is permissible to shed his blood.

Wahid al-Din Ahmad Sulayman acknowledged his membership in the Renunciation and Repudiation group as of 1976 when he became convinced of its thought and asserted that this group has branches in the various parts of the country.

Al-Sayyid Muhammad Badr al-Wafi refused to divulge anything on the organizational structure of the Renunciation and Repudiation group even though he did admit that he is a member in it, that the group's members hold meetings in some of their homes and that the group instructs its members to be obedient.

Church Priest Answers Shaykh al-Sha'rawi

Nasr Jundi Sulayman, one of those engaged in radical Christian activity, stated that he had printed leaflets containing the principles and teachings of Christianity and distributed them in the streets without distinction between the followers of his religion and others.

When questioned, detainee Rufa'il Ni'matallah (a deacon at Kafr Ayyub 'Awad church in Banha) admitted that he had distributed missionary booklets and leaflets to students and residents at Minya al-Qamh bus station.

Archpriest Bulus Basili Ghabryal, the priest of the Virgin Mary church in Shubra, admitted that he recorded taped replies to the sermons of Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi and instructed his parishioners to reproduce the tapes at their expense.

Denied Charges and Condemned Sectarian Sedition

The above are some of the statements of those who have been interrogated. The others interrogated on the charge of engaging in radical religious activity have all denied the charge and condemned the sectarian sedition incidents. They thus denied their participation in the sedition or violation of the sanctity of the religion of others.

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EGYPT PLAYS VITAL ROLE IN AFRICAN MANPOWER PLANNING, HOUSING DEVELOPMENT

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Oct 81 p 5

[Article: "African Consensus on Selection of Egypt as Site of Human Resources Planning and Development Conference"]

[Text] The African countries have unanimously approved the selection of Egypt as the site for the forthcoming human resources planning and development conference. This approval was expressed at the conference held in Monrovia, Liberia, at the beginning of this month. That conference discussed the problems of planning and of studying the feasibility of setting up a specialized African agency to be entrusted with planning and developing an executive strategy for human resources. Egypt was represented at the conference by a large delegation headed by Dr Hasan Ramzi Kazim, first deputy director of the Organization and Management Agency.

Egypt had expressed its complete readiness to advance technical aid to the African countries in all spheres of human resources planning, development and utilization through the Organization and Management Agency and through Ministry of Labor experts. Egypt also stressed to the conference the need to study the requirements of African labor markets in preparation for coordinating the exchange of labor and of expertise in a manner that realizes some kind of balance between labor supply and demand in the continent, in preparation for setting up a data bank for human resources that will supply the African countries with the information they need on expertise and manpower resources available in the continent and in preparation for drawing up joint programs to develop top-level leaders in the field of organization and management. These programs will extend to the capitals of the participating countries according to their conditions and resources. Moreover, the programs will get the technical and financial resources they need from international and regional cooperation organizations. Egypt also called for the exchange of instructors and studies in civil service programs and programs concerning organizational and administrative affairs in the African countries. Egypt also welcomed trainees from the African countries and expressed its readiness to prepare and implement their training programs in Egyptian training institutes and centers within the framework of the technical cooperative program. Egypt also asked that the opportunity be provided for training some Egyptian and African cadres in the advanced countries and called for the exchange of publications, pamphlets, research and periodicals in the sphere of human resources development between the Agency and the African organizations concerned. It also called for the exchange of educational films and other educational and training materials that help transfer managerial knowledge easily. Egypt

further called for the publication of a scientific management magazine that serves the African countries in the sphere of development and human resources.

Establishment of African Housing Organization

On the other hand, Egypt took part in the final preparatory meeting that was held recently in (Orsha), Tanzania, to discuss the creation of an African housing organization. The African Development Bank had invited its 17 members to attend this meeting. Egypt was represented in the meeting by a large delegation headed by Samir Salim Karim, first undersecretary of the Ministry of Economy. The Tanzanian minister of lands and housing expressed his concern over the prolonged neglect experienced by the housing sector in Africa, warned that the rush toward civilization has complicated the problems of the poor and of the classes with low income and said that there is an urgent need at present to exert integrated efforts to reduce the restrictions on the systems of housing distribution. He said that the essential element in this regard is long-range financing so that the African housing organization, as an African organization to finance housing, can act as an effective instrument in this regard. The Egyptian delegation proposed that the organization be formed as a regional organization among the governments so that it can enjoy the guarantees, immunity and privileges granted to such regional organizations. But the predominant view at the meeting was the establishment of this organization as a joint stock company with limited liability subject to the law of the state in which it is headquartered so that its activities are not influenced by political pressures and so that it can be operated on technical bases that guarantee the efficiency and safety of its operations. It was agreed at the meeting that the capital will total \$40 million.

In this regard, it was also agreed that the governments of the member states, the African Development Bank and the other African regional organizations will own no less than 60 percent of the company's shares.

In response to a proposal from the Egyptian delegation, the conferees agreed that the shares will be nominal for the African governments and organization and that the company management will adopt measures to insure that ownership of these shares does not filter down to non-African hands so that the company's quality as an African company can be preserved at all times.

Thus, Egypt's share of the capital amounts to \$1.33 million representing 3.33 percent of the new company's total capital. It was also agreed at the meeting that one half the capital will be paid after ratification and signing of the agreement [setting up the company] with the rest payable on demand.

During the discussions, the Egyptian delegation pointed out that the Arab Republic of Egypt agrees to the share allocated for it by the African Development Bank, namely \$1.33 million, out of its desire to support the noble goals served by the project and to cooperate with the African peoples. Egypt hopes that it will be given the opportunity to offer the services of its housing experts to the African organization.

8494

CSO: 4504/81

SUBSIDIZED MEALS, CLOTHING TO BE PROVIDED TO UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 31 Oct 81 p 1

[Article: "Twenty-Five Million Meals, Subsidized Clothing for University Students as of Today"]

[Text] It has been decided that as of today the universities will begin implementing a program to bolster student services in university housing, food, financial aid and educational achievement awards. The cost of the subsidy, which the university advances for student care and student activities, amounts to 25 million pounds. It has also been decided to complete housing for the students accepted at the university towns. The number of these students this year totals 40,000, and they will be subsidized by the universities to the tune of nearly 10 million pounds to make up for the difference between the fees the student pays and his actual housing costs.

The universities will also begin as of today providing 25 million hot and cold meals during the academic year to students not residing in university towns. The universities will spend nearly 7 million pounds to subsidize these meals. The disbursement of achievement awards for excelling students--amounting to 48 pounds, 72 pounds and 120 pounds annually--will begin next Thursday. The total value of these awards amounts to nearly 3 million pounds, and approximately 40,000 students benefit from them.

Saydanawi Establishment as of this week will begin supplying the students with special clothing exempted from customs fees and valued at nearly 6 million pounds. About 400,000 students will benefit from this clothing.

Dr Muhammad Tulbah 'Uwaydah, president of al-Zaqaziq University, has stated that it has been decided to have students residing in university towns participate in the boards of directors of these towns. It has also been decided that a student accepted in a university town will pay, on top of the housing fee, additional fees of 8.5 pounds, of which 4 pounds will be paid in eight installments and will be allocated for maintenance of the university towns, 1.5 pounds as an annual fee for student social and athletic activities in the town and 3 pounds as fees for the use, renewal and replacement of town equipment.

8494

CSO: 4504/81

BRIEFS

SUBSIDIZED MEAT FOR TOURISTS--Guests of first class hotels controlled by the Ministry of Tourism consume 6,000 kilograms of subsidized meat every 24 hours. Statistics gathered by the Ministry of Information confirm that the ministry's first class hotels, totaling 29, in 1980, consumed a total of 2,000 tons of subsidized meat, 556 tons of subsidized chickens, 746 tons of sugar, 382 tons of oil and 1,085 tons of flour. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 26 Oct 81 p 1] 8494

TOURISM REMITTANCES--Tourist remittances in August 1981 dropped by 9 million pounds compared to the August 1980 remittances. The remittances in August 1981 amounted to 26.5 million pounds compared to 35.5 millions in 1980, according to statistics of the Central Bank of Egypt. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 26 Oct 81 p 1] 8494

CIVIL SERVICE DISCIPLINE--Muhammad Radwan, minister of culture, stood with his private secretary in front of the ticket window to enter the Egyptian Museum. The minister gave the ticket teller a 25-piaster bill and she gave him two 10-piaster tickets. The minister asked the employee for the remaining 5 piasters but she apologized, saying she had no change. The minister ordered that an inventory be made of the safe and deducted 3 days' wages from the employee's salary. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 26 Oct 81 p 1] 8494

DEPOSITS BY EGYPTIANS ABROAD--Dr Sulayman Nur al-Din, minister of state for economy, has stated that the net new deposits made by Egyptians working abroad have risen more than nine fold in the past 6 years to reach approximately 500 million pounds in 1980 compared to nearly 53.6 million pounds in 1975. The minister of state for economy has also stated that the deposits made in the commercial banks have also risen greatly--to 400.6 million pounds in 1980 and to a [total] vlaue of 875.1 million pounds. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 27 Oct 81 p 9] 8494

APPROVAL OF NEW PROJECTS--The Investment Authority Council has approved 58 industrial projects with a capital of 141 million pounds and a cost of 272 million pounds. The projects will provide 10,200 new job opportunities to Egyptians. They include six projects for the production of ready-made clothing and seven projects for the production of yarn and textiles from natural and synthetic fibers. Dr 'Abd al-Razzaq 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister for economic and financial affairs, has stated that the projects approved by the council include a project for dairy production, for meat canning, for canning preserved foods and for producing macaroni and a project for the production of poultry feed. The projects also include a plant

for the production of sand bricks and porcelain, a plant for prefabricated housing, a plant for door and window frames, a plant for paints, industrial detergents and liquefied gases and plants for the production of car spare parts, air-conditioning units, refrigerators and washing machines. The deputy prime minister has further stated that it has been decided to give the public sector companies the opportunity to benefit from the investment law and that there are no obstacles to prevent developing the equipment of this sector or expanding the sector in accordance with the investment law. Eng Taha Zaki, minister of industry, has stated that it has been decided to answer the investor applications received from the Investment Authority within 1 month and to bring lax employees to account. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 28 Oct 81 pp 1, 6] 8494

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY GOVERNORS--President Husni Mubarak has issued a decree stating that a governor may have one or more deputies, that appointment and dismissal of the deputy governor may not be a member of the People's Assembly or of the local councils and that he shall be treated as a deputy minister insofar as recompense and salary are concerned. The decree also stipulates that a deputy governor shall carry out his work under the supervision and instruction of the governor and that members of the governorate's local popular council may question the deputy governor and task him on internal affairs within his jurisdiction. The decree further stipulates that the phrase "assistant governor or assistant governors" be replaced by "deputy governor or deputy governors," as the case may be, wherever it occurs in the laws and regulations. The decree also instructs that the current assistant governors be transferred at their current grade to job positions established for them by a decree issued by the first deputy prime minister and by the minister concerned with local government. [Text] [Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 30 Oct 81 p 5] 8494

CSO: 4504/81

GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL SAID TO BE MEANS OF U.S. DOMINATION

Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 16 Nov 81 pp 16, 15

[Text] Previously we had said that the United States, in order to dominate the Persian Gulf, is striving to reconstruct in Saudi Arabia what it had lost in Iran due to the occurrence of the Islamic revolution. As it was pointed out, the policy of the United States today in the region and the world is one of resorting to military force, and if necessary, to direct oppression and occupation of forces that threaten the world's capitalistic interests. It is in order to implement and apply this policy that the United States these days has turned to widespread and enormous exercises using its elite special forces, and to aiding reactionary countries in the region.

Another one of the United States' tools for the application of its aggressive policies is bringing the reactionary countries in the region closer together, and trying to solve their internal disputes. In reality these efforts are aimed at establishing friendly relations between the countries, and as much as possible at concluding multilateral treaties and agreements between them. This is because the United States in this way can apply its policies in the region with greater confidence of mind. One of these treaties which totally accepted servitude to the United States, and which is in reality the United States' basic arm to dominate the Persian Gulf, is the Gulf Cooperation Council. This council has come into being with the union of the six countries of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, North Yemen and the United Arab Emirates. We recently witnessed the second meeting of this council's leaders, which took place six months after its first meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Before any explanation concerning this council and its goals, it is essential to point out that Saudi Arabia now, as the country having the highest income in the region, has exercised its indisputable domination over the majority of the arab countries. Saudi Arabia is a country which is giving enormous financial aid to a great many arab countries, and this is one of the axes and pyramids of pressure from Saudi Arabia in order to make other countries accept its points of view of various issues.

For example, take Saudi Arabia's aid of \$98.5 million to the Palestine Liberation Organization when only several days remained before the Conference of Arab Leaders in Fes, Morocco, and when the region was on the threshold of a big transformation to U.S. advantage due to Prince Fahd's shameful peace plan. This confirmed that despite the superficially revolutionary and deceitful slogans of some of Palestine's leaders, Saudi Arabia is able to buy them and impose its points of view on them.

From the economic point of view we have also witnessed that the reactionary arab shaykhs of Saudi Arabia, by their reckless increased production of crude oil, have neutralized every advantage this rare wealth gives them over the United States and its Western allies. They have not even permitted the price of oil to rise on the world market.

It is for precisely these reasons that the United States has established this country as the center of gravity for its policies in the Middle East and the Persian Gulf. In addition, the fall of the Shah's puppet regime made firm the United State's determination, and it began greater investment in Saudi Arabia.

As pointed out, one of the United State's arms in the Persian Gulf is the "Gulf Cooperation Council." Saudi Arabia has the role of Babrak Karmal in this council because this country's points of view can be the indicator of the council's policy.

This council incorporates plentiful advantages for the United States from the strategic point of view. This is because, first of all, these countries are unconditionally in the claws of Saudi Arabia, meaning that in reality they are in the United States' power. Secondly, the unity of these countries due to their being located on the Persian Gulf coast can make the United States more hopeful in relation to providing Gulf security. Thirdly, without exception these countries, although having no open hostility to Islamic Iran, cannot be accounted Iran's friends, and thus can come into play as important advantages for the United States in pressuring the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Kuwait has a "quasi-exceptional" status in this council. It is sole member of this council that also has relations with the Soviet Union. It should not be left unsaid that the reactionary countries in the region are exerting pressure on Kuwait from the Saudi Arabian and Iraqi fronts towards coordinating that country's policy with the other reactionaries. The plot of attack Kuwait's oil facilities by an unknown country was one of these actions.

In the second meeting of the member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was held for two days in Riyadh, the U.S. goals in the region were to a very great extent realized.

The first special dish served up by this council was the complete acceptance of Saudi Arabia's peace plan for the solution of the Middle East problem proposed by Prince Fahd. It was decided that this plan would be proposed in the coming meeting of arab leaders in Fes, Morocco, and that these countries would support the above plan. Therefore, we see that this council's first decision was worthy help to the United States' Middle Eastern policies, the political axis of which at the present moment is Prince Fahd's plan.

Among other decisions of this two-day meeting was agreement over drawing up a common defense force from the council member states in order to protect the Persian Gulf region. In light of the fundamental nature of these countries and their indisputable weapons dependency on the United States, one can doubtless guess what fine consequences this will have for U.S. military policies in the region. It seems necessary to remind us of the point that engaging in military matters was never a part of this council's charter. It is natural that the recent transformations in the region, particularly the big Iranian victory in Abadan, could be good stimulus and a

good excuse for these countries to implement and adopt this method. In particular, another one of the articles in the final declaration is about the necessity of ending the 14-month war between Iran and Iraq which in their opinion "threatens the peace and stability of the entire region."

An explanation of this does not seem necessary but a reminder is obligatory that the council's military cooperation agreement and defense treaty can intensify the hostile orientation of the council's member states towards the Islamic Republic of Iran. This means that in reality the United States has obtained a good tool for exerting greater pressure on Iran.

Another article of the declaration emphasized the point that the security of the Persian Gulf must be the responsibility of the region's people. As far as this is concerned, each of the six countries and the United States know that Iran will never be transformed into a base for the Soviet Union, and that any kind of effort on the part of the Soviet Union to gain access to the Persian Gulf from the Soviet Union will meet defeat. Therefore, in light of the American nature of the countries in the Gulf Cooperation Council, one can easily predict that this decision also is in precise strategic agreement with U.S. viewpoints.

Another article in the declaration as always condemned the Soviet Union's intervention in the matter of Afghanistan, and termed the Afghanistan situation a danger to the peace and security of the region and the world.

The funniest part of the declaration stated "the opposition of the council's member states to any sort of action by other powers whose aim is the setting up of a base in the Persian Gulf region for the purpose of threatening the security and sovereignty of the region's countries," while the United States has a very large military base in Oman, and the U.S. AWACS in Saudi Arabia are even blind to the attacks of Israeli fighters. This item in the declaration rather resembles a political joke.

To sum up, the Gulf Cooperation Council, as one of the political and military arms of the United States at the present time, can be accounted a potential danger for Iran. This is particularly so since Iran as a power is able to be a source of great transformations in the arab states, and is also a thorn in the side of the reactionary arab rulers. In light of the fact that these countries also are somewhat desirous of the overthrow of the Islamic Republic of Iran, often in the near or distant future will they turn to intrigues in this regard? The military cooperation agreement of these countries, the probability of this cooperation's expansion and its transformation into a defense pact between these countries could increase the United Arab Emirates' empty claims based on the ownership of three islands. Also, the United States is not unwilling to double its pressure whenever it sees Iran in a weak position. Therefore, it seems necessary that effective actions be taken beforehand in this regard. Naturally, one of these actions is the activation of Iranian diplomacy against the common enemy of the region's Moslem nations, namely tyrant Israel. And we should have confidence that as long as we rely on nations, the reactionary governments can do absolutely nothing. Just as the United States was unable to do anything.

FIFTY-FIVE BILLION RIALS APPROPRIATED FOR SMALL INDUSTRIES

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 12 Dec 81 p 14

[Text] From the beginning of the imposed war to date, 305 production projects have been implemented by the project assessment and supervision department of the Bank Sepah. The bank has appropriated 55 billion rials to encourage people to invest in small and medium-sized industries.

Rahmatollah Haqiqi, the head of the project assessment and supervision department of the Bank Sepah, made this statement: "In conformance with the economic and social goals of the government of the Iran Islamic Republic and to encourage people to invest in creating, developing, renovating and starting small and medium-sized production units, the bank has decided to allocate a portion of its financial resources for this purpose." He added: "Since such a program needed to have special experts in project assessment and supervision, the bank has been able, over a short period of time, to train and equip more than 50 experts to process industrial loans." He then said: "The objectives in implementing this program within the framework of the new credit policy are: to help in achieving economic independence for the country, to replace imports with domestic production, to create employment in small towns in order to stop the influx of people to Tehran and to large cities, and to provide for relative stability along with the increase of the level of production." In connection with the amount of the loans, he then stated: "The maximum loan to be made for each project is 25 million rials. In those cases when the projects obviously help to carry out the economic objectives of the Iran Islamic Republic, and especially when the projects are aimed at producing something in Iran for the first time, or when the implementation of the project requires the active participation of more than one person, this sum could rise to 50 million rials. Also, those projects involving machinery and raw materials that can be produced domestically will enjoy special priority."

Haqiqi then stated: "The relation of the industrial loans granted to the overall sum for production projects will be of 70 percent in small towns and of 60 percent in large cities. In Tehran, within a 120-km radius, loans will not be granted for the expansion of factories or for establishing new ones, and they will be granted only up to 60 percent of required funds for the renovation of existing industries."

Haqiqi then referred to the length of the loans and said: "The length of the loans will be a maximum of 6 years for newly-created projects; as for projects involving expansion plans, the maximum length will be 3 years." He added: "It is possible that, considering the nature and the profitability of the project, in those cases where it is fully recognized by the bank, the length of the loan could change to 8 and 4 years respectively."

Haqiqi then said in relation to the required security for the loans: "Any kind of immovable property, including land, mortgageable buildings, machinery and installations resulting from the implementation of the project, can be used as security for the loans." He added: "In the decision-making process for the granting of industrial loans, character, specialty, experience, education, the kind of product or services involved constitute the bases for the experts' decision to grant industrial loans." He then said in relation to the methods to be used in applying for the loans: "Applicants for production or industrial loans can obtain needed information at the central branches of the Bank Sepah in all cities and from bank supervisors at provincial capitals, as well as in Tehran at the project assessment and supervision department of the Bank Sepah located on Vali Asr Street, intersection of Professor Motahhari Street, No 448, and also by calling 894-718." He finally asked all industrial institutions and revolutionary organs that are somehow in contact with industrialists and industrial units to cooperate with the Bank Sepah in order to attain the objectives in granting industrial loans and eliminating difficulties related to this process.

CSO: 4640/102

JEWISH SOCIETY CONDEMNS ANTI-KHOMEYNI PROPAGANDA

Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 16 Dec 81 p 1

[Text] Tehran, Dec. 18 (Pars)--In a statement just released, the Society of the Jewish Intellectuals of Iran, condemned the recent imperialistic propaganda under the name of supporting the Iranian Jews. The statement said after the imperialists' recent cries alleging Iran has executed the Iraqi POWs, imperialism and Amnesty International which aim at belittling the Islamic Republic of Iran, declare that in Iran human rights were violated vis-a-vis religious minorities.

It added that the Jews know well that their status has immensely improved in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and all these noises were for degrading the struggles of the Iranian people against imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism.

The statement further said that Amnesty International circles were silent about the acts of the neo-fascists and the Ku Klux Klan vis-a-vis the Jews and the Blacks and were also silent about Saddam's bombing of Iran and massacring the innocent people of Iran.

The statement called on all Iranian Jews to deem as their religious and national duty the defense of the Islamic Republic of Iran and do not provide the imperialist propaganda machines with any assistance.

CSO: 4600/162

VARIOUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS REPORTED

Regulations for Structural Steel

Tehran BURS in Persian 30 Nov 81 p 7

[Text] The steel trade market, in which changes occurred some time ago as a result of incorrect distribution, has caused some discussion. With tons of various kinds of machine tools and steel in high demand caught up in customs, the market is in the situation it is. Each day that the distribution is prevented, the situation becomes worse. Although there is sufficient steel and the steel mill has had good production during the past few months, the reason for the steel situation not improving remains unclear.

An informed source in the steel cooperative company was contacted by BURS and he said: We will have no problems in making deliveries if steel is put at the disposal of the company, because other things, such as forming a file and inspecting the entire building, are done very quickly. Unfortunately, our main problem is the incorrect delivery and distribution by a number of people, which has reached a peak while steel customers are increasing in the market. If immediate steps are not taken to solve the problem, many difficulties will ensue. Despite the import of tons of steel and of domestic production, it is unclear just what is preventing distribution. In continuation, he said: Recently, with the instructions issued by the Ministry of Commerce concerning not filling the requests for delivery of steel made by revolutionary institutions, it is not clear what is to be done with the hundreds of people who have been waiting their turn for a long time, since the delivery of steel to these applicants is to be based on their having building permits from the municipal office. This, in itself, will cause quarrels and confusion. How can we tell the applicant who has been waiting for steel for three months that no steel will be delivered until a permit is produced? This will cause us serious problems in the future. This same source continued: The primary cause is the lack of cooperation between the governmental and revolutionary organizations, which causes discontent. In our opinion, this is not right and if the concerned organizations take immediate steps regarding delivery, enabling us to deliver steel to the applicants on time, they can be assured that the problem of

steel will be solved in the shortest possible time, since we have sufficient supplies and there are applicants for them. Incorrect distribution has caused this problem and hopefully the authorities will help us solve this great difficulty so that the steel market may return to normal.

Availability of Machine Tools

Tehran BURS in Persian 30 Nov 81 p 7

[Text] With the decline in construction, the arrival of winter, and the decrease in demands for steel, it is hoped that with the delivery of tens of thousands of tons of various kinds of steel and the expedition of their transportation to distribution centers, last summer's situation will calm down and that transactions will return to normal. The disruption of the calm situation concerning steel which erupted suddenly this past spring has continued ever since. During the past 8 months, the price of steel has reached 250 rials per kg, disturbing the market and affecting other goods. Since former authorities could have improved the situation with an emergency plan, the reason for the situation continuing up to the present and the reason for allowing a number of people to gain large profits by robbing the poor, the people who put them in power, remain unclear. Since some time ago, there have been whispers in the market that the steel situation will soon improve. Yesterday, the minister of commerce announced in an interview that about 400,000 tons of steel had arrived at the country's ports and had been unloaded. We have no problems concerning [illegible] steel. With this amount and with our domestic production, if a correct distribution system is established, we can be sure that the undesirable state of affairs of the past eight months regarding steel will be corrected at once. Following this, the open market will be broken, since, at the present time, the steel delivered to applicants by cooperative or expansion companies or other sources, following certain guidelines, is insufficient. The consumer goes to the open market and accepts paying high prices. Despite the fact that two cooperative companies distribute steel, no improvement has been made. Of course, those in charge are concerned with guild re-elections. In the course of the next few weeks, the situation with the machine tools union will be clarified. Then a revision will be made in the work procedure of the two cooperative companies so that they follow one distribution system. The problems will be solved since our supplies can sufficiently meet existing demands. If the existing problems are dealt with without bias and with the idea that we should work for the working and low-income class, many of the problems will be solved, because the low-income masses are obedient. Those who are comfortable and have purchasing power disrupt the market and the trade and distribution system. In the future, a correct system must be followed to bring us out of this situation. Hopefully, the message of the minister of commerce is a harbinger of the good

news of the decrease in the price of steel and the normalization of machine tool distribution and trade--God willing.

Credit Regulations

Tehran BURS in Persian 30 Nov 81 p 6

[Text] In an announcement, the deputy minister of commerce in charge of purchasing announced the new regulations for registering orders and opening credit. The text of the announcement was put at the disposal of PARS NEWS AGENCY as follows.

In the name of the Almighty. The economic, production, and commerce institutions, including the private and governmental sectors, are hereby informed that with the issuance of this announcement, the stages for the registration of orders and opening of credit will be as follows.

1. Applications submitted to the concerned production and distribution centers or the consumer and producer protection agency for the approval of prices, with consideration for instructions issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

Note. Items for which special centers are not assigned are exempt from the content of this paragraph.

2. Obtaining the necessary permits from the concerned ministries on the basis of general regulations.

Exports, imports, and other instructions of the Ministry of Commerce [as published].

3. Deduction of fees for acquisition and distribution centers.

4. Submitting applications to the order registration office of the Ministry of Commerce, to be stamped with the seal of that office, and recording the statistics, with consideration for the payment of the fees of the acquisition and distribution centers.

5. Registering orders and establishing credit in an authorized bank.

Note. Concerning the forms and applications for the opening of credit for which the necessary permits had previously been obtained, on the basis of the permits obtained from the related ministries and with consideration for the goods and the registration of the order with the Ministry of Commerce, steps can be taken to open credit.

Loans for Projects in Esfahan

Tehran BURS in Persian 3 Dec 81 p 3

[Interview with Engineer Kupa'i, deputy for development of the Province of Esfahan]

[Text] With 7,500 million rials in funds, 1,200-1,300 development projects are being implemented throughout the Province of Esfahan, Engineer Kupa'i, supervisor and deputy for development of the Province of Esfahan, announced in a press conference, adding that despite the shortages of construction materials, about 50 percent of the development budget of 7,500 million rials, which was announced earlier, has been utilized by the operational organizations of the Province. He added that several months after the announcement of this budget, 1,980 million rials were added to the development funds of the Province. The total development funds for our province are 9,480 million rials.

He added: In the budget for 21 Mar 82-20 Mar 83, agricultural and industrial programs will be given special priority. In the current year, 60 million rials of the budget were put at the disposal of the governor-general's office and 130 million rials from the special regional fund were put at the disposal of the center for coordination of councils in order to develop those areas which are not covered by the municipal offices or the construction crusade. Engineer Kupa'i added: A number of tanks to store kerosene before the arrival of winter have been installed in the regions where they are needed. It was decided that the necessary foodstuff would be transported to the villages through rural cooperative unions and the rural cooperative organization. Engineer Kupa'i said: The responsibility for housing loans for government employees, which are supposed to be planned and distributed by [the Ministry of] Housing and Urban Development, has been conferred on the governor-general's office this year. So far, contradictory instructions have been received. However, the governor-general's office intends to build houses instead of giving loans and to give the houses to the employees to be paid for in long-term installments. Concerning the purge of departments, he said: This must be done in two ways: First, through the reconstruction bill, which was ratified by the Majlis, and, second, through guidance and help given to employees to reform themselves, which is the duty of the Islamic societies of the departments. He added: We have all been reared during the past regime and have grown up in that climate; therefore, we need to be constantly reminded of our mistakes. The law will deal with those who intentionally do not do their jobs.

Praising the behind-the-front aid of the people of Esfahan, he estimated the number of war victims housed in Esfahan camps at 24,000 and the number of war victims of the Province at 126,000. Concerning the statements of Imam Khomeyni about the full cooperation of the

authorities with the clergy, Engineer Kupa'i said: In a visit by all the governors-general with the imam recently, he emphasized an understanding between the authorities and the people and said that this understanding must be gained through the clergy and religious scholars. The supervisor of the governor-general's office of Esfahan said, concerning the implementation of the law: The leader of the revolution emphasized this issue and it is our duty to implement it correctly. The authorities are responsible in this regard and we request that the people demand the exact implementation of the law and help the authorities to do so. In conclusion, concerning the activities of the organization for land development, he said: Unfortunately, this organization does not have a board of directors; but, we expect the minister of housing and urban development to appoint a board of directors for this organization as soon as possible.

9593

CSO: 4640/94

IRAN

REFRIGERATOR FACTORY TO INCREASE PRODUCTION

Tehran BURS in Persian 15 Nov 81 p 4

[Excerpts] General Steel's new refrigerator production line began operation yesterday morning in the General Steel Factory in the presence of the managing director of the Foundation of the Oppressed and the factory's managing director and other heads.

The General Steel factory is affiliated with the Foundation of the Oppressed. After the revolution's victory the factory was confiscated and nationalized. Prior to the revolution this factory was operating under the name of the Sherkat-e Sanaye'-e Pars va Amrika [Pars-U.S. Industries Company] (private joint-stock) under the management of the executed Alqanian.

At the present time this factory operates two production sections, refrigerator-making and production of aluminum parts. In light of the economic blockade and Iraq's imposed war, the company was able to increase both the quality and quantity of its production. The new assembly line which was opened Monday resulted from the day and night efforts of the factory's employees and workers, and it began operation with better quality without help from foreigners.

During opening ceremonies for the new production line, Karimi, head of the Foundation of the Oppressed, Ahmad Boland-Nazar, chief of the industries branch, and their companions inspected various sections of the factory. Engineer Lulu, managing director of the General Steel factory, explained the method and stages of production.

Karimi, head of the Foundation of the Oppressed, concerning the inauguration of the new line and the efforts and seriousness of the workers to raise production, said: We thank the workers and appreciate their efforts towards increasing production. Perhaps we can hope for a day when the level of production will rise at the same time that primary and raw materials consumed by factories become available. He added: Our revolutionary workers today need revolutionary culture more and more. This culture must be given to them by means of this society's intellectuals, because deviationist lines must be completely eliminated among workers whose hands and arms are laboring towards real production in domestic industries.

Then Ahmad Kavyani, a General Steel manager, said: The line which was inaugurated today is a line upon which the Danish were working during the revolution's beginning. The revolution's victory caused them to leave Iran. As a result, this line remained unfinished. But today it has begun operation with better quality in the hands of Iranian workers and without the interference of foreigners.

He added: With the start-up of the first phase of this new line, 250 refrigerator units, or in other terms, about 40 percent, is added daily to the prior production level. Thus, in light of current daily production of 500 units, the production level reaches 750 refrigerator units daily with the beginning of this phase. We are hopeful that with the beginning of the second and third phases of this new line, daily production in this factory will reach 1,000 units. The factory manager added: At the present time, all the refrigerator parts, from the evaporator (the cooling system) to the skeleton, condensor, door interior and the plastic and metal body are built by Iranian workers in the factory itself. Only the motor is imported from abroad, and we are also planning to build it.

Ahmad 'Abdus, assistant administrative manager of the factory, while explaining the factory's personnel, said: At the present time there are 900 workers employed in the sections of refrigerator and parts production. Seventy percent of them are working in the refrigerator production section.

Jamshid Yuhna'i, production manager of the refrigerator-making section, said: At the present time two kinds of refrigerators, the 7-foot and the 9-foot, are produced in this factory. The price of the first type, which is 200 liters, costs the consumer 2,425 tumans. The second type (9-foot) is 275 liters, and its price to the consumer has been set at 2,612 tumans.

Qasem Farsi, a worker in the electrical section, in answer to our correspondent's question about the welfare and general condition of the workers in the factory, said: Currently no critical problem exists in this factory. In light of the understanding between the workers and the managers, minor problems that come up are quickly done away with. For example, the problem of special profit was resolved like this; it was decided that in its place they would give a reward for extra production to the workers. Furthermore they have given houses which are being completed to 53 workers. He added: This factory's workers possess consumer, credit and housing cooperatives. Farsi concluded by asking that land and physical recreation facilities be made available. He added: In light of the number of personnel and the number of sports-loving workers it is necessary that the factory directors give this matter their attention, and put exercise facilities at our disposal.

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CSO: 4640/61

IRAN

MAZANDARAN CEMENT FACTORY BEGINS OPERATION

Tehran BURS in Persian 10 Nov 81 p 4

[Excerpts] A summary biography of Engineer Isma'il 'Abadi, managing director of the Gorgan and Mazandaran Cement Factory:

Engineer Isma'il 'Abadi was born in Tanakaban [sic] in 1320 [1941-42]. He pursued his education until obtaining a chemical engineering degree at Tehran Polytechnic in 1345 [1966-1967]. In that same year he began working in the new Dorud Cement Factory. He was then employed six years in the Esfahan Steel Mill and six years in Sepahan Cement (formerly Arya). Eight months ago he was appointed to the position of managing director of Gorgan and Mazandaran Cement. During the aforementioned period in Sepahan Cement he was production manager and factory head. At the present time he is carrying out his duties in the Gorgan and Mazandaran Cement as the manager chosen by the government's Iranian National Industries Organization. Engineer 'Abadi is one of the country's humble, active and experienced industrial directors.

The BURS correspondent conducted an interview with Engineer 'Abadi on the occasion of the beginning of the Neka' Cement Factory's operation. The interview is as follows:

In general what is your view concerning the present state of the country's cement industries?

- The government must do some basic thinking as quickly as possible with respect to the country's cement industries. The figure for the capacity of the country's existing cement factories is about 14 million tons a year. However, last year, meaning 1359 [21 March 1980-20 March 1981] the figure was about 8 million tons of production. The reasons for this production deficit stem from the problems of the country's industry, such as a lack of expertise and efficiency among the personnel, from the spare parts problem, and furthermore from the industry's own management. Like other institutions it suffered from changes after the revolution.

- What was the basic reason for the production reduction other than the items mentioned?

- As I mentioned, in one word, the lack of coordination in management, which unfortunately still exists, is the basic reason for the stagnation and reduction

in the country's industrial output, including the cement industry. This production difficulty creates a chain of associated difficulties which are among the disadvantages the cement industry also bears. The costs of producing a ton of cement are now higher than the price fixed by the Commerce Ministry.

The Commerce Ministry has fixed a price of 3,200 rials for a ton of cement produced by the country's factories, while this same ton of cement in the country now costs more than 4,000 rials. If basic actions are not forthcoming from the country's responsible officials, one fears that problems will multiply in the future.

Start-up of Operation

- The Neka's Cement Factory is the first cement unit in Gorgan and Mazandaran. On the occasion of the start of its operation, I sincerely congratulate you and all the workers, laborers and others involved from this productive province. This action became even more fascinating when we were informed that it occurred without the slightest interference or cooperation from foreigners, and that all affairs were well managed by capable Iranian engineers and technicians. It is now more than a month that the factory has been operating day and night. This is a great accomplishment, and will be a cause of pride for the fatherland's post-revolutionary generation. Please tell us a little about the fruitful efforts and strivings that were made.

- During the period of the last eight months great efforts were made in order to complete the remaining work. Gradually the shortages of spare parts and necessities for the factories daily use were removed by the endeavors of the caring workers. In the last stage the cement oven was started up and began operation.

Factory Characteristics

- Please tell us about the location, the record of development, capital, budget, the elimination of financial problems, the capacity, and in general anything you can concerning the first cement unit in Mazandaran.

- The Gorgan and Mazandaran Cement Company suffered from financial problems from the beginning because it had no production but had numerous costs. Thus from the beginning the provision of financial sources for us was and is a serious matter. At the present moment we are in negotiation with the Industry and Mine Bank, which is one of the company's shareholders, so that we can supply the necessary credit for the purchase of spare parts, wages, and purchase of necessary equipment and fuel for the factory. Of course they have promised aid and we are hopeful that our financial problems will be solved. I must say that this unit's monetary needs, without accounting the costs sustained so far, are one billion rials (one hundred million tumans) for the purchase of spare parts, the completion of projects like the machinery in the repair shop, and the purchase of heavy equipment like loaders and bulldozers. The credit must be supplied for these necessary expenditures.

With respect to the history of the founding and other characteristics of the Neka' Cement Factory, it is registered under the name of the Gorgan and Mazandaran Cement Company. It possesses primary capital of 1.2 billion rials (30 percent),

the Reza'iha Group has a 40 percent share, the Red Crescent has a 10 percent share, and the remaining shares, namely 20 percent, were offered to the people. There are 530 employees which include 12 engineers, 50 technicians and foremen, 30 administrative and financial employees, and the remainder are technical and non-technical workers.

The factory is located in the Neka' city-region (20 kilometers from Sari towards Gorgan) situated in a wooded district. The factory is situated in a 19-hectare square compound which comprises stone-crushing facilities, a mill for raw materials, a cement oven, a cement mill, a loading dock, a clay drier, and a central control room which gives commands to the systems for starting and stopping machinery.

Primary materials which are lime and clay exist in the factory's vicinity. The amount of them consumed daily is 3,200 to 3,400 tons.

Iron ore needed by the factory is supplied and transported from Mashad, and chalk from the Semnan Mine. The Neka' Cement Factory possesses a capacity of 2,000 tons daily, and from the beginning of Mehr 1360 [23 September 1981] began working at 75 percent capacity. The factory's product is just one kind of cement, which is the famous Portland cement. The factory machinery was purchased from the Humboldt Company of West Germany in 1354 [1975-1976]. The cost of this equipment according to the contract was 55 million marks. The contractor for the construction and installation of the machinery was the Building Supply Company.

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CSO: 4640/61

RAFSANJANI COMMENTS ON F-14 SPARE PARTS, ISRAEL

Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 22 Dec 81 p 3

[Text] In an interview with the paper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, Hojjat ol-eslam Hashemi Rafsanjani, speaker of the Majlis, provided information regarding the report by a foreign news agency that was sparked by an Iranian request to purchase F-14 spare parts from the United States. He also expounded on the new U.S. plot to outwardly appear to rupture strategic cooperation talks with the Zionist regime and discussed Israel's declaration of sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

Concerning news agency reports that Iran tendered the U.S. a request for the purchase of F-14 spare parts, Hashemi Rafsanjani said: "Both Hojjat ol-eslam Khamene'i and the commander of the Air Force have discussed this problem. It is clear that this is similar to one of those arms-purchase programs from Israel. There is, of course, something which has not materialized yet. This has to do with the fact that we previously purchased some parts and, therefore, own them. In the course of freeing the hostages this problem was also examined along the lines that we are entitled to any of the purchased items we want because we paid for them. The situation has stagnated for years but according to signed agreements, if we want those parts they must be delivered. Naturally, we must obtain the equipment we require. If we secure those parts, they will suffice for years and we will not need to make further purchases. Unfortunately, the serious steps we think ought to be taken to get the parts still have not materialized. But, in any case, we do not have a program for new purchases from the United States."

Strategic Cooperation

With respect to the strategic cooperation between U.S. imperialism and the Zionist regime, the speaker of the Majlis said: "The United States is confronted with a wave opposition by certain countries. Governments right down to the individual citizen, even certain pro-U.S. governments, have been compelled to take a stand. Naturally, the United States must outwardly exhibit a certain flexibility, but in my view, this is not a serious concern since Israel is much smaller than should be necessary for the United States to resort to force, if it desires to restrain Israel.

"If the United States should firmly oppose Israel and Israel should sense it, it would give up these acts. In my opinion, this U.S. effort is a sham to deceive peoples and governments."

The speaker of the Majlis said the following about the occupationist regime's sovereignty over the Golan Heights: "There was more dissension among Muslims over the Israeli move. That is to say when Camp David and the Fahd Plan are under consideration and Arab and Islamic forces are not united, Israel feels secure and does whatever it wants. Israel's goal here is expansionism, and it constantly wants to extend its usurped territory."

CSO: 4640/104

BRIEFS

LIBYAN FINANCIAL AID--Amman--AR-RA'Y has learned that the Jordanian Finance Ministry has received a check from Saudi Arabia representing part of Libya's financial obligations for 1980 which Libya undertook to pay to Jordan during the Baghdad summit conference but has so far failed to do so. It is noteworthy that Algeria had also pledged to offer financial aid to Jordan. Algeria paid its commitments for 1979, but has not paid anything since that time. Saudi Arabia, Iraq, UAE and Kuwait pledged during the Amman summit conference to cover both the Algerian and the Libyan obligations if the two states failed to honor their obligations under the Baghdad summit conference. [Text] [JN050808 Amman AR-RA'Y in Arabic 5 Jan 82 p 1]

CSO: 4404/191

MAJ SA'D HADDAD'S 30 DEC NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

NC301403 Marj 'Uyun Lebanon Voice of Hope in Arabic 1022 GMT 30 Dec 81

[30 December New Year's message by commander of "Free Lebanon" Maj Sa'd Haddad--live or recorded]

[Text] Happy New Year. We are at the end of one year and at the threshold of a new one. In the past year, there were mediation efforts and initiatives--in short, it was a year of nonsense talk. However, what we hope is that the new year will be one of work and self-determination for Lebanon. I hope that the new year will be a good one for all my brothers in free Lebanon and for all the Lebanese people and Lebanon. I also hope that it will be a year of deliverance [from the crisis], liberation, unity, sovereignty and independence.

Anyway, as I said, the new year will be full of events, including the current talks about the presidential elections or extending of the term of office in occupied Lebanon. On our part, our views on both things are well known. Whatever they do in occupied Lebanon, be it elections or extending the term of office or anything, it is illegal because the Chamber of Deputies lost its legality long ago and no longer represents the people. It is unreasonable for an illegal body to [claim to] issue legal things.

At any rate, there are two things regarding the forthcoming elections--if they take place: First, either the Syrians will stay in Lebanon or, second, Lebanon will become independent. If Lebanon becomes independent before the elections take place, then there won't be any problems, because elections to the Chamber of Deputies and then the presidential elections can take place and everything will be legal. If the Syrians forces remain in Lebanon, however, it is only natural that Syria would install a president who would be a servant of the Syrians in Lebanon. This might constitute a great danger to the possibility of saving Lebanon from Syrian annexation, because Syria would demand from the man it appointed president that he act and ask in a legal way before the world--there is no legality in this--that Lebanon be annexed by Syria.

If in such a case we are given the choice of extending [the term of office] or elections, we would prefer the extension. This is because--to say the truth--President Sarkis, despite his shortcomings and obedience to the Syrians, has not taken any public steps against Lebanon and the Lebanese people. He could have helped to save Lebanon if he had addressed the world as a president should.

However, he preferred to remain silent. He adopted the stand of a spectator; neither standing with Syria nor with the Lebanese.

In one way or another, this spectator's stand has enabled world public opinion to interfere, though indirectly and not as effectively as we would have hoped, when the battles intensified in Beirut, Zahlah or elsewhere. True, we would have liked him to address the world about what was happening in Lebanon and about the occupation. We do not deny that the man is dependent upon the Syrians and, at the same time, is trying to evade this dependence. For this reason, if the Syrians remain in Lebanon, we would reluctantly prefer an extension of Sarkis' term [of office].

Among our internal problems: I had said that I have learned that an ugly crime took place in Lebanon in which an innocent young man was martyred. He was one of the volunteer fighters of free Lebanon. The murderers, or rather one of the murderers--because the other escaped--claimed that the reasons [for the crime] were for revenge. To clarify matters, the murdered man came from the as-Surayri township and Nabil Muzhir came from al-Qatranah township. When Nabil Muzhir sought refuge with us, I received a letter from his father entrusting him to us and requesting that we avenge the blood of his brother and his mother from al-Qatranah township, because he knew that the killers were from the swindlers [Palestinians] and from the inhabitants of al-Qatranah township itself. He did not refer to as-Surayri township. Furthermore, when artillery exchanges were taking place, Nabil Muzhir used to come to me and ask me to shell al-Qatranah township for him.

Then Butrus 'Abduh Karam came [presumably to free Lebanon]. He claimed that he came from Jazzin township; there is nothing to prove this other than his claim. After a week or two, Butrus became acquainted with Nabil, and both of them began to plan to commit a crime. Had the matter been one of revenge, as they claim, I cannot imagine anyone who knew that a particular person had murdered his brother, particularly in these circumstances, whose blood would not boil, compelling him to draw his pistol and immediately open fire at that person in any of the streets. This person does not need to make plans or resort to trickery and deception to attain his objective. Even if Nabil Muzhir or any other was afraid that I would not carry out his request or rather he was afraid to implement it himself, then he should have gone to his senior and to the free Lebanon commander himself--who had sympathized with him and his case--and explain the case to him had there been a grain of truth in it. The truth is neither here or there. There is not a grain of truth in the allegations made by Nabil and Butrus. The crime was committed for the sake of killing only. It was committed in the ugliest of circumstances. I do not consider it unlikely that criminal Butrus Karam, on whom the sentence of death was carried out, had been sent by the Syrians with a false identity card to stir up trouble in the free Lebanon area and to spoil the area's reputation. The reputation of the free Lebanon area is above all, and the interest of free Lebanon is above all other interests.

I urge upon all fighters, particularly the foreigners who have recently joined us: We in this area have been living for hundreds of years as brothers, and

committing crimes for their own sake is not one of our habits and practices. If we carry arms, we do it to defend ourselves and for the sake of a sacred cause that is more sublime than such filthy and despicable matters. Therefore, all must be aware that anyone who has evil thoughts in his head of stirring up trouble or anything else, be it on a sectarian or other basis, he should be kind and take his belongings and return to where he came from. Anyone who wants to join us must be psychologically prepared for that, because in free Lebanon there is only one family, which lives in amity, equality and sincerity. There is no discrimination among sects here. We are living for the sake of Lebanon, all Lebanon and all the Lebanese. The formula that is found in free Lebanon is not found in any other place. This formula is Lebanon's hope. We believe that Lebanon is for all the Lebanese. Thus, everyone who believes with us and shares our beliefs is welcome to live among us; otherwise, he must willingly leave. Moreover, anyone who wants to come on the basis of other thoughts, he should stay where he is in his house or place with our thanks.

We absolutely do not accept that the reputation of free Lebanon should be spoiled by filthy acts. We only accept social justice for all. We are not working on a sectarian basis. It is true that the Christians have suffered and were threatened with extermination. But God helped them and removed the danger of extermination from them, because they have a cause. We do not want to return evil for evil. We are not working for the sake of division. That is why we have been triumphant so far. God willing, we shall remain triumphant, because God Almighty will not help an evil person, an aggressor or the usurper of other peoples' rights. It is because we were with what is right and because we are right that we have triumphed and the almighty creator helped us. We shall triumph; and with this belief, we shall liberate Lebanon.

Coexistence in free Lebanon is a thorn in the side of the covetous ones--Syrians, swindlers, leftists and fanatics. We shall not accept any alternative to coexistence. I hope that everybody will understand what I mean. Whoever wishes to help us in this, is welcome. Otherwise, he has no place among us. I repeat that we here are living as one family and are not used to crime. We take up arms for a noble objective. Our enemy is present beyond the Litani River. There are no enemies among us; the enemy is on the other side. Whoever wishes to undertake an act of vengeance, let him come to me, and I will prepare for him an operation to carry out across the Litani River against the real enemy.

Another issue is that of the kidnapped and evicted persons. All hell has broken loose, and it has not settled yet with regard to the eviction of some families from the western sector to Tyre. Everybody--persons like Shafiq al-Wazzan, the deputies and others--took to analyzing this matter as they like. One said that Israel is vacating the south to occupy it. Another said I do not know what and everyone has been skillfully using big expressions to draw attention to himself. However, not one of them has asked about the real reason.

First of all, we in our area have set an example in tolerance and coexistence. As for those who have been evicted, we are well aware that they have sons working with the swindlers, yet we welcome them and accept them among us as kinfolk and have never contemplated expelling any of them. But, after the

swindlers kidnapped and held innocent civilians who had nothing to do with military operations but who were going to Beirut for business, and after having made several contacts and obtaining no result, we were compelled to carry out this action.

Those who are zealous about the south should bring pressure to bear on Haj Isma'il, Azmi and Samir as-Suwaydan and their followers and tell them not to accost people on the road and to release the kidnapped. As soon as they release the kidnapped persons, you will see that all the evicted persons will have returned. There is no need for you to beat the drums or blow the horns. When you look into the matter, you should view it from both sides and not only from one side.

Why did we not think of such a step before? It is because everything was safe--the roads were safe and people used to go and come. But when civilians are attacked, [words indistinct] we take measures against civilians. There is a cease-fire at present. Otherwise, we would have kidnapped and destroyed. As for now, we take such measures as a means of pressure. Are you really afraid that the south might be stripped of its inhabitants? Then please release the innocent civilians. There are three persons who are still being held. Why? There is no reason. We cannot take a (?fighter) like 'Ali as-Suwaydan, who came on a reconnaissance mission preparatory to staging operations and who admitted having staged many operations--he, his brother, or their group--and put him outside the area in exchange for peaceful citizens seized while traveling on the road. Let Haj Isma'il and 'Azmi come and kidnap fighters from free Lebanon and then we can exchange 'Ali as-Suwaydan of the popular front for the fighters they kidnap.

Therefore, you who are zealous about the south and other areas but have no authority on the roads--for if you had this authority, there would be no kidnapping--I ask you before you make any statements: Do you support the kidnapping operations that take place on the roads? Was the kidnapping carried out on orders from you and with your consent? Were your legitimate authorities the ones which carried out the kidnapping? No. Do not brag much. Do something worthwhile, something fruitful. Exert pressure on the swindlers and make them return the kidnapped persons and not accost the civilians. It is only then that the [evicted] civilians will return without you saying a word and without your intercession with us, with others or with the Red Cross or the UN emergency forces.

We hope that this issue will be resolved quickly and the kidnapped will be released so that the inhabitants will return to their homes.

We then have the subject of the Deuxieme Bureau. The Deuxieme Bureau is now resuming its sabotage activities. I do not know for what purpose. This bureau has never carried out effective, constructive activities. Its activities have always been subversive.

We regret that Lebanese indulge in sabotage in Lebanon. For example, in Western Beirut, evidence has emerged and several confessions have been made that most of the explosions occurred at the instigation of the Deuxieme Bureau. We regret

that in the Deuxieme Bureau's attempts to get the people to ask for the deployment of the army to ensure security, it resorts to such filthy methods. The army should either be imposed or not at all. The dissolution of the army (Hall al-Jaysh) in such a situation is much better and more honorable than planting bombs and killing innocent people here and there. It is as if we are setting a forest on fire to light a cigarette. Then they try to interfere with us here.

I warn them. We know everyone who is working for the Deuxieme Bureau. So, please stop interfering with us lest we cut off your [agents'] hands and heads as well as their tongues here. When the head is cut off, it includes the tongue.

Therefore, do not try to play with fire in our area. We have hundreds of ways to retaliate. We can hurt you, and we can pulverize you if we so wish. You are aware of our capabilities. We are remaining silent. If you want [to operate] inside the UN forces area and to laugh at the world, do as you wish, but outside our area. In any case, as regards the occupied areas, your problem is not ours. You are friends with them [not further identified] too although we do not support your work. In our area, we cannot in any way disregard any activities. Be sure that we shall strike violently as soon as we become aware that you have begun to engage in mean activities. Beware also--I remind you--and this is no secret--that our intelligence is working but not alone. The strongest intelligence in the world is also working with us. You are aware of this. So, please, everyone, keep within his limits. We do not wish to hurt you. So, do not try to hurt us. We are aware of your situation and we know every one of you.

Then there is the question of Zahlah. I now feel that the lights are again being focused on Zahlah by various sides for an evil purpose. I tell everybody: Please let Zahlah remain neutral. The tragedies it has endured and the victims it has sacrificed are enough. The people of Zahlah are good people. They have good hearts, undoubtedly, but they get all worked up quickly. Yet, they are peaceable people who like to live in peace with the rest of the world. We ask the people of Zahlah not to be taken in by rumors or enticements and to maintain cool nerves. We also ask the people concerned and those who claim to be responsible in occupied Lebanon to persuade the Syrians to keep a little distance away from Zahlah and to let the people of Zahlah carry out their agricultural, commercial and other activities normally and also to open Zahlah to the entire al-Biqa' area, because Zahlah has been the bride of the al-Biqa' and should remain so. We hope that we will not hear of reports about fighting in or around Zahlah.

Another thing. There is no doubt that the whole world has its eyes focused on [Syrian President] Hafiz al-Asad and wondering what is the purpose of his current tour of Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait and I do not know where else. The world is saying: The man will certainly come and start a (?war) tomorrow and liberate the Golan. I assure you that Hafiz al-Asad has never thought of regaining the Golan or any other place, because he received the price of the Golan a long time ago, in 1967. He was defense minister at the time and he shared the price.

He is now touring the Arab states to embezzle and receive the difference in currency because the value of the money has dropped. He wants to go and get more money from Saudi Arabia and the rich countries. Do not be deceived and

stop heaping praise on him as being the rock of steadfastness and I do not know what [word indistinct]. Everyone must think of the way to save himself and save his country. Do not cling to wornout ropes. Hafiz al-Asad was exposed a long time ago as a man who is interested in money and in embezzlement. We should not say more than that, although we could reveal things we would rather not divulge on the air. However, I tell you: Do not believe much and do not pin hopes on him. Everyone must think of how to save himself and his country.

I then ask those who claim to be responsible that, if a summit conference is convened, to tell conferees: Arab and Arabic-speaking kings and presidents. Remove the swindlers from the south and Lebanon and Lebanon will be all right and peaceful. Stop telling them to come and fight and speak to them about a unified strategy and so on and so forth. This is an old tune, and it is about time you realized this.

Therefore, face the facts. You only have to tell them: Withdraw the swindlers and take them to your countries. If they ask you from where they would be able to carry out their sacred activities, you tell them they can carry out their activities from the Golan Heights or the West Bank. King Husayn has been continually praising the swindlers on every occasion. In that case he should allow them to return to his country. To show that King Husayn is lying, you only have to ask him to open his borders [to the Palestinians]. Otherwise he should remain silent and not brag.

The new year coincides with the so-called 17th anniversary of the Palestinian revolution. Certainly, they will celebrate the occasion with some military operations. We are aware that they are too incapable of carrying out any action against Israel. Therefore, their celebration will be in the form of planting mines or staging military operations against free Lebanon--I mean against the Lebanese. For this reason, I ask my free Lebanese brothers to be very vigilant and alert to frustrate all the sabotage attempts and to reply with a double blow. Even though it is going to be a holy night. I appreciate the situation of everyone who will be in his position, because he would be sacrificing some of his off-duty hours so that his family can celebrate in tranquillity and peace. This is a sacred duty. Therefore, increase your vigilance and be on your guard. You will receive instructions [words indistinct] for safeguarding our children and families, because our enemies, the swindlers, are only concerned with causing harm--particularly to the innocent civilians.

I don't want to be too long. So, in conclusion, I wish everybody a good and prosperous year. I say to our free Lebanese brothers: Be magnanimous and have high hopes, because Lebanon is looking up to you who embody Lebanon's hopes and aspirations. Do not let down any Lebanese who believes in you--for he is waiting to meet you on the road to liberation. Long may you live; and long live free and sovereign Lebanon.

CSO: 4404/191

DAILY ON U.S.-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES

PM291523 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 20 Dec 81 p 1

[Editorial by Michel Abu Jawdah: "Washington's Option and the Israeli Peace"]

[Excerpts] President Reagan's decision to suspend the "strategic cooperation" with Israel because of the latter's decision to annex the Golan Heights falls into the same category as the U.S. reaction to the Israeli raid on the Iraqi nuclear reactor and the U.S. President's decision to engage in the "AWACS" battle which resulted in victory for the U.S. administration over Israeli objections. The Israeli reaction to the latest decision as expressed by Defense Minister Ariel Sharon is not surprising. These three U.S. positions mean the cancellation of the Israeli "veto" against U.S. Middle East moves not agreeable to Israel. The previous administrations had given Israel this right, but the Reagan administration has had to reject it on three occasions when the nature of U.S.-Israeli relations was put to the test.

On all three occasions the U.S. reaction showed a difference between U.S. and Israeli policies in the Middle East, and consequently the beginning of a difference between U.S. and Israeli interests in the region.

The U.S. attitude has evoked positive reaction in Arab rejectionist circles, but it still appears a very small step, which should be followed by a distinction between the U.S. and Israeli positions on the question of peace. This distinction could perhaps be mainly manifested on the Palestinian issue and the question of Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories.

Of course, it is natural for Israel to react violently to President Reagan's move and for the U.S. administration to be engaged in a battle with Israel's supporters and with Zionist circles. The continuation of the U.S. attitude will depend on the Arab attitude. This is why the Arab foreign ministers' conference ought to compensate for the loss of Arab solidarity at the FES conference, if only by agreeing on a minimum. This will make the United States go for peace options to save its interests, even at the expense of "strategic cooperation" with Israel.

CSO: 4404/191

STATUS OF SECURITY MEASURES IN WEST BEIRUT REVIEWED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WAL-DUWALI in Arabic No 236, 9-15 Nov 81 pp 9-10

/Article by Rafiq Shalala: "Are the Third /Group of/ Security Measures Solid?"/

/Text/ The security measures the Arab deterrent force started to apply in the western section of Beirut and its southern suburbs at the beginning of last week left a favorable impression among official and popular circles, for two reasons: first, they were carried out intensely and resolutely, at least in their first days, and second, they occurred after the sloppiness in security had become aggravated.

They also occurred after resentment in ordinary circles had become exacerbated over the inability of the parties concerned to impose a minimum of security and stability in an area where the "Arab deterrent forces" and the Palestinian resistance, with all its security apparatuses, are situated, besides the parties in the National Movement and their agencies. The criticisms rose to the surface after they had quietly circulated in the people's salons and clubs, becoming daily fare, consuming large areas of space in the press and the media.

There is no doubt that the stabilization of security in the eastern section of Beirut after the 7 July incidents 2 years ago, and the drop in the number of crimes and robberies in that area, were to a large extent responsible for prompting the people in the western section to express their discomfiture over the situation in their area and to demand on occasion--and on more than one occasion--that a limit be put on the state of sloppiness which had pervaded their area.

The initial application of the new measures was preceded and prepared for by a series of meetings held among the leaders of the National Movement and the Palestinian resistance and Syrian officials, since the Arab deterrent forces assume the legitimate responsibility for security in the western section of Beirut, in cooperation with the domestic security forces, as well as having an effective role in controlling the situation, by virtue of the fact that they are broadly deployed and that this deployment extends to the political context. The latest of these meetings was held 24 hours before the initial application of the measures, in the headquarters of the deterrent /forces/ in Shtawrah, attended by x the deputy chief of staff of Syria, Maj Gen 'Ali Aslan, and a number of Syrian officers. In it stress was laid on the need to carry out the measures in

accordance with the stipulated plan and to be strict about preventing armed demonstrations, the erection of barriers, the movement of military vehicles and the spread of party barracks, and suppressing acts of aggression and violations. The people who had met asserted that they would never allow this plan to fail, bearing in mind that that was the third time that the application of the measures had been announced and that execution had quickly been paralyzed for a number of considerations.

The National Movement has supported the adoption of these measures without reservation and has worked to make them succeed, now that resentment has risen and criticisms have proliferated. The parties to this movement figured in most of the bloody clashes. This caused the Islamic man in the street and his traditional leaders to hold the movement's parties responsible and to accuse them of standing behind the internal breakdowns in security and of being unable to establish a minimum level of security. This is what /former/ Premier Sa'ib Salam called "dominance, irresponsibility and the imposition of hegemony."

The Political Aspect

Where are these measures likely to lead, and what do they mean in practice?

National Movement Sources attach special importance to the success and continuation of these measures. In addition to the atmosphere of security they dictate, the measures involve a test of the ability to cope with events and interact with them, not react to them, and they reflect a new reshuffling of alliances, culling the useful and effective alliances and abandoning the harmful, ineffective ones.

These sources add that the measures are bringing the parties of the movement together again and are helping them assert themselves as a single, unique force for political dialogue and interaction, because the measures, in practice, entail combining all the small organizations that have not yet entered the Central Political Council of the National Movement, which now belong to the Council of Popular Powers and local councils. Each of these organizations has started to rally around the Security Council, which is in charge of supervising the proper execution of the measures to guarantee their continuation.

In these sources' opinion, combining the "national arena" forces about specific goals, though security-oriented at the outset, will have the effect of developing political action in the coming stage and will give the National Movement new weight with the man on the political street, especially since the movement's political platform coincides with the Syrian and Palestinian platforms in this period, embodies the alliance that exists in practice among the three parties, and has stymied attempts at violations by various groups.

The intensified application of security measures, in the view of the same sources, will follow the broad, complete control of the nationalist man in the street, implanting the National Movement's feet and lessening the campaigns of criticism which it has been exposed to from more than one party, thereby qualifying it to take strict measures in its role in this tentative political game, especially in the period to come, which will witness transformations, not the least of which will be election of a new president.

The same sources add that the success of the first stage, that is, the security measures, in restoring living conditions to their normal course, if only to a relative extent, will prompt the National Movement to shift over to a second stage in its activities. This is what has been termed a "political onslaught" on traditional leaders who have attacked the movement and displayed its negative features to the man on the street, aggravating the reaction to it. The "onslaught"--which will be vicious and crushing, senior figures in the National Movement predict--is represented by the rejection of the traditional leaders' charges that the movement has failed to control the security situation, since this situation was the approach the traditionalists used in their attack. When this approach is thwarted, the traditional leaders will have nothing to say, if the security measures succeed, tranquility returns to the area and acts of aggression cease.

The longer-range goal is to put an effective, efficient political touch on the movement's conduct and platform which can be used in more than one area, especially in the upcoming presidential elections. One should bear in mind that the leaders of the movement may not succeed in constituting a party following the solution to the parliamentary crisis, but they may, as they say, be a legitimate element of the opposition. Therefore the recent statements by the secretary general of the Central Political Council, Mr Muhsin Ibrahim, have each started to be classified as the gambit in struggles over issues that may quickly become causes.

Conversely, there are people who consider that the new measures have consistently strengthened Syria's political and security role in the western section and suburbs of Beirut, causing Damascus to prove once again that it is able to control the situation when it wants and that without its role the situation will not be secure at all. This prompts political and official bodies to take the Syrian role into consideration in all equations which can help remedy the situation. This is a matter which sources in the Lebanese Front describe as the assertion of the Syrian presence in the western section, which might lead to developments that have not yet emerged, although some parties anticipate them.

What cannot be doubted is the fact that continued coordination between Damascus and the resistance, which exists in concentrated form in the western section, will help to make the new measures a success and any disruptions in coordination will have a negative impact on the security situation and bring matters back to zero. Therefore ordinary and political circles are betting on such coordination and consider it a safety valve. If that is lost, everything will be lost.

Where does the government stand on these developments?

There is no doubt that official sources consider that any positive security development in any area of Lebanon will help implant the foundations of legitimacy. They have sought to have domestic security forces acquire an executive role in the new measures in order to confer authority on their own legitimacy and give them the stamp of Lebanese security. They are hoping that they will be reelected positively on the other security fronts in order to arrive at a minimum of tranquility which will strengthen their role.

The question that continues to be pre-eminent among officials, and citizens, is whether this time, which is the third time, will be the stable one, as the popular maxim has it, or whether the execution of measures will come up against disruptions that will limit the enthusiasm of those performing them, the people betting on tranquility will lose, and the people who have bet on continued disruption will win.

NATURE OF LIBYAN REPORTS TO HALT CIVIL WAR DESCRIBED

Paris AL-NAHAR AL-'ARABI WAL-DUWALT in Arabic No. 236, 9-15 Nov 81 pp 8,99

/Article by Rashid Fayid: "The Government: The Damascus Tripartite Summit-- Tripoli Did Not Offer and Ba'abda Did Not Welcome a Libyan Initiative"/

/Text/ The minister of tourism, Mr Marwan Hammadah, was in the coastal tourist village of al-Andalus, "getting prepared" psychologically to greet the waiting period, which he had expected would be long, for an appointment to receive Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, when a messenger brought him the news setting the date for that evening.

The Lebanese minister, who had gone to Tripoli from Nouakchott, the capital of Mauritania, by way of Rabat, bringing letters on his trip from the president to the heads of the states he visited, had expected that he would not meet the Libyan president before 2 September, that is, 4 days after he arrived, because the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyyah was celebrating the 12th anniversary of its revolution.

Just as the scheduling came as a surprise, so did the interest al-Qadhdhafi showed in the Lebanese issue. He presented the minister with the broad outlines of what he declared the following day in his speech at the main celebration of the anniversary of the revolution concerning a Libyan initiative to end the war in Lebanon.

However, the initiative had originated before that. On 11 June, in the Evacuation Day speech, al-Qadhdhafi declared that he would launch an initiative to end the war in Lebanon, and on the 19th of that month at the Nairobi summit of the Organization of African Unity the foreign relations secretary of the Popular Committee of the Popular Bureau, Mr 'Abd-al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, declared that al-Qadhdhafi would follow up on his initiative to restore relations with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Morocco on an Arab and African tour to put an end to the wars in Lebanon, the Gulf and the Sahara.

The deputy Col Fu'ad Lahhud says that he was the first one to indicate to Lt Col al-Qadhdhafi to make a move to end the war in Lebanon and that that dated back to the revolution celebrations of 1 September 1980. Meanwhile a Libyan diplomatic source points out that the idea was raised after he, personally and through friends, had sounded out the situation from more than one Lebanese party.

However, whatever the origins may have been, the Libyan party's efforts so far do not constitute the initiative at issue; rather, one can sense its features by seeking out the common denominators among the local parties to the crisis following Syrian agreement to the Libyan move.

Before the "celebrations of the first," Col al-Qadhafi visited Damascus and in a meeting with the regional and national commands of the Ba'th Party presented his idea and received agreement, especially since he had founded the idea on three integrated principles whose priorities were interconnected:

Ending the war in Lebanon and attaining a national reconciliation.

Protecting the Palestinian resistance and supporting its struggle to achieve its goals.

Strengthening Syria's perseverance, guaranteeing its frontal terrain in Lebanon and putting the Syrian army back on the front with Israel.

In another meeting, the colonel discussed his plan with the leaders of the National Movement and all detachments of the Palestinian resistance. Although he had set his mind on support, more than one person present expressed a fear that the move was fated to be suppressed and warned of a Lebanese quagmire.

At the same time, indirect contact was made with the Lebanese Front, which showed its support.

The Premises of Sounding out the "Situation"

In any event, the Lebanese move was launched, on the basis of the following points:

1. The withdrawal of Syrian forces from Lebanon and the gradual handing over of security affairs to the security forces designated by the legitimate authorities--meaning, in practice, the army (which would lead to a discussion of the status of the army).
2. The acquisition by Syria of security and military guarantees on the protection of its frontal terrain in Lebanon.
3. The shift of Palestinian resistance personnel from Lebanese towns to the south, while granting /the resistance/ freedom of media and political action.
4. Severance, by those parties dealing with Israel, of their relations with it.

Under these headings, the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau, in its activity, broke itself up into two teams, on the one hand the secretary of the bureau, Mr Salih al-Daruqi, whose task basically was to meet the president, the premier, the minister of foreign affairs, the Maronite patriarch, the papal emissary, the mufti of the republic and Shaykh al-'Aql, and, on the other, Messrs 'Abd-al-Qadir Ghuqah and Muhammad al-Fayturi, who made visits among the other parties.

The upshot of the visits was a concurrence of views among the parties, even on the points in dispute, as follows:

1. A desire to put an end to the current situation, with all its aspects.
2. The fact that the Lebanese situation is complex and connected to the Middle East crisis.
3. The need to carry out political and constitutional reform.

In the political sense the most prominent meetings were those which took place with the president, Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil and the Islamic Grouping.

Lebanese sources reported that President Ilyas Sarkis welcomed the Libyan move in principle, /stating/ "Lebanon welcomes any initiative or assistance that will lead to ending the hemorrhaging of its territory and its people." He pointed out that the Lebanese consensus required now is a consensus on holding the presidential elections on time and providing suitable conditions for them, and said "Any Arab party looking for a positive role in Lebanon must participate in this approach and provide a role for the army, since that is the instrument of the Legitimate authorities. What is desired, as a result of this, is to create a climate for the next president which will enable him to achieve a reconciliation."

The Tripartite Summit?

After meeting with the secretary of the Brotherhood Bureau, Mr al-Daruqi, President Sarkis was asked about the possibility that a trilateral summit might be held including Presidents Sarkis, al-Asad and al-Qadhdhafi in Damascus, and he replied, in a statement to journalists at Ba'abda Palace, that some parties had raised the issue but that "there has been nothing official since."

Syrian sources say that the idea of the trilateral summit is not a Libyan product but is a recommendation Shaykh Pierre al-Jumayyil presented to Messrs Chuqah and al-Fayturi when they met with him, and that he prefaced his recommendation by saying that he believed that a meeting that included him and the Syrian president would result in frank talk which would put an end to current Syrian-Lebanese problems. The Libyan party's response was that that was out of the question, at which point, as Syrian sources say, al-Jumayyil recommended that three presidents meet and that he, that is, the commander of the Lebanese forces, be part of the Lebanese delegation. The answer again was that that was out of the question. The final formulation of the proposal was that the trilateral summit would meet in Damascus and the parties to the Lebanese crisis, including Bashir al-Jumayyil and the commanders of the National Movement, would be invited.

At this meeting, and in similar ones with the Libyan party, the commander of the Lebanese forces expressed a position whose gist is as follows:

1. A desire to spell out the Syrian role in Lebanon.
2. Preparations to accept Libyan forces in place of the Syrian ones.

3. The fact that the Palestinian issue is common to all Lebanese but that the Palestinian presence must lie within a framework that does not infringe upon Lebanese sovereignty. Pierre al-Jumayyil was quoted as saying, "I am prepared to defend the Palestinians if they discipline themselves and commit themselves to the agreement, and do not support some Lebanese parties against others."

4. Support for anything that would guarantee Syria's security and reassure Syria about its security zone in Lebanon.

5. The relationship between Lebanon and the Arabs, based on conditions that are taken for granted and are not open to discussion.

The Chill Has Its Justifications

In meetings with the other parties, /former/ President Sulayman Franjiyah, the Islamic Grouping, and the Islamic Council, the Libyan impression was positive although the Islamic Grouping, for example, expressed a negative point at the first meeting--justified by one of its members, who was a former prime minister--that was based on the relationship between Libya and the National Movement and Tripoli's long neglect of the grouping that had arisen from that.

These dialogues and meetings, and others which will be repeated, were conveyed and will be conveyed to Tripoli before consultation with Damascus and the Palestinian resistance, preparatory to the launching of the Libyan initiative itself.

However, Lebanese milieux have observed a chill in Libyan activity in recent weeks. Sources in the Libyan Brotherhood Bureau attribute that to the desire to draw conclusions from the meetings that have taken place up to now. Sources in the Palestinian resistance have stated that the reason is the Libyans' reservations regarding the "media climate" in Beirut, which contains "an offensive against the Arabs and Arabhood," and that "the material being written against Syria is not compatible with the Libyan approach."

These sources quoted Libyan leaders in Tripoli as saying that their desire to have the Syrian forces leave Lebanon was "to serve the Syrian role in confronting Israel, so that the Syrian army could occupy its forward positions, not to get them out of Lebanon in the guise of a defeated party. In addition, the Libyan activity is on Lebanon's behalf and at the same time is on behalf of Syria and the Palestinian cause."

What is the next stage in the process?

The secretary of the Brotherhood Bureau, Mr Salih al-Daruqi, said that the process is still going through a state of crystallization of views among the parties and added "It would be better if one could say that we have offered the draft of an initiative, rather than that we have moved and failed."

Al-Daruqi's statement does not negate information, emanating from the Palestinian resistance, to the effect that Libyan activity will slow down in anticipation of the presidential elections, the ripening of circumstances, and the firming up and consolidation of the national movement, so that the solution can be politically balanced, the way the military situation was balanced in the previous period.

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EFFECTS OF PROLONGED DROUGHT ASSESSED

Effect of the Drought Examined

Paris LE MONDE in French 28 Nov 81 p 34

[Article by Roland Delcour: "Morocco: On the Brink of Ruin"]

[Text] Rabat.--Will Morocco go through a second year of drought? Millions of growers, and especially the small fellahs (peasants), gaze worriedly at the sky in this month of November 1981.

The spectacle of the Moroccan countryside is distressing. Already transformed into a quasi-desert all the way to its richest provinces such as the Meknes plain, Morocco now presents its farmers with a soil which is resistant to the plow. In most of the northwestern regions, usually the most fertile, farmers can neither plow nor plant.

For a country that suffered its worse drought ever in the 1980-81 season, the situation is becoming truly catastrophic. The effects of a second year of drought on the 1981-82 season would result in the ruin of a country already reduced to living largely on international charity. The 1980-81 growing season was characterized by a drop in the rainfall level of 40 percent on the average. A freeze at the end of 1980 added its effects to those of the drought for Moroccan citrus trees....

Grain production fell to about 20 million quintals against a normal harvest of 35 to 40 million quintals. The average production was established at 5 quintals per hectare, which, noted a writer in the communist newspaper AL BAYANE, caused Moroccan agricultural production to fall below the level of the middle ages.

The deficit in comparison with consumption is 30 million quintals, which corresponds with a doubling of Moroccan imports that in normal times are between 15 to 17 million quintals. This will cost Morocco 2 billion dirhams (1 dirham = 1.05 French Francs) or one-fourth of the country's oil bill, Morocco's main expense in foreign currency.¹

1. France has already delivered 10 million quintals of wheat to Morocco since the beginning of the year.

This bill absorbed almost all the funds obtained through the exportation of phosphates, Morocco's main resource. The trade deficit has consequently been aggravated; last August it was already 7.2 billion dirhams, more than the entire 1980 deficit. Citrus exports are threatened, which will contribute to the further aggravation of the trade deficit. Large producers await the end of the year in anguish. If there is no rain between now and the end of 1981 the fruits will be withered and impossible to sell.

Peasants Abandon their Cattle

The consequences of the drought do not stop there. The livestock industry has also suffered terribly. The decrease of livestock is estimated at 40 percent. This is the main wealth of the small fellah (traditionally the number of heard of cattle has been considered in Morocco as having the same importance, if not more, as the number of hectares; 90 percent of stock raisers have herds of at least 50 sheep and 10 cows).

With the price of feed, especially cattlecake, having risen two and threefold by speculators, small breeders have been forced to sell off their animals. In some marketplaces in the South cows have sold for 200 or 300 dirhams, and sheep for 20 dirhams, with peasants abandonning their animals when they are unable to sell them. In town, however, meat prices, save for mutton, have hardly varied at all.

Small fellahs come to town to sell their plots of land², which explains the process of concentrating holdings to the benefit of the farmers with large properties. Thousands of famished peasants have flowed into the big cities, despite the efforts of the police who are attempting, especially after the riots in Casablanca to return them to their districts of origin. Some of these families are gathered in the lobbies of buildings in Rabat where they are reduced to begging. King Hassan II had to pass an order prohibiting the sacrificing of the traditional lamb on the occasion of the feast of Aid El Kebir, since it would have involved the slaughter of 2 to 3 million sheep.

Black Market in Water

Everywhere the level of reservoirs is dangerously low, as is the production of hydroelectric power. Underground water reserves are also reduced. Supplying water to large cities such as Casablanca, with its 3 million inhabitants, is beginning to pose serious problems, and in some cities the population has been requested to save water. In the country the inhabitants sometimes cover several kilometers to resupply themselves with water from the farmer who has a well, since most sources are dry. In some villages a veritable black market in water has sprung up.

In town the prices of fruit and vegetables have reached heights never before equaled. Moroccans discover with stupefaction that the price of potatoes is 4 dirhams per kilo, and carrots and turnips cost between 2 and 3 dirhams per kilo. Apples are sold for up to 10 dirhams per kilo, and organges, which are still cheap, have no more juice.

2. Nearly three-quarters of all agricultural lands are smaller than 5 hectares.

Dairy production is diminishing and large cities are not assured of a regular supply of milk, especially in Casablanca. In the poor quarters families nourish themselves with bread and sweet potatoes, the soaring prices adding to the unfortunate increases in the price of staples, which led to the disturbances in Casablanca last June. The communist opposition, the only group able to make itself heard at the moment, is calling for price controls and a struggle against speculators and monopolizers.

Morocco can indeed count on the aid of France and on its traditional allies, and may resort to help from large financial international institutions, but the country is getting deeper and deeper into debt. The new Moroccan government will not escape the need to take draconian measures should the country undergo a second year of drought.

Social Disparities Widened

Casablanca AL BAYANE 10 Nov 81 p 3

[Article by El Meliani]

[Text] Everyone who closely follows the fluctuations being experienced by the nation's economy is aware that these movements are largely ruled by the results and performances of the agricultural sector. Looking only at the facts which characterized the preceding season, it has been noted that this sector underwent an exceptional drought, which was aggravated by a freeze lasting more than a month at the end of last winter. The combined effects of these two climatic manifestations were behind the cause of a decrease in agricultural production, most particularly in the grain and livestock industries.

Grain production for last season barely passed the mark of 20 million quintals for the four main cereals. This means an average yield of less than 5 quintals per hectare, taking into account all lands destined for grain production. This performance naturally includes the results recorded in the irrigated sector which ought not be affected by climatic variances. With these figures, New Morocco is foundering in performances that would embarrass the Middle Ages.

The effects of the drought and the freeze acted upon other investments also, such as sugar base crops, vegetable cultivation, citrus trees, etc.... Yet outside of the sugarbeet growers, the citrus and vegetable sectors have plenty of spokesmen who do more than just get by. In the name of the imperative "currency" they always manage to wangle grants here, advances there, etc.... Grain producers, especially the legions of small ones, and those "sugar raisers" who are not part of the privileged club of exporters can do nothing other than go see if it is raining elsewhere.

The cattle industry also suffered the consequences of the drought. Worse yet, one can say that our herds have been decimated. The overall number of livestock will have decreased by the alarming proportion of approximately 40 percent. Some technicians disconsolately forecast little hope for the Sardi breed, which is in danger of extinction.

The two "newcomers" to the agricultural sector (grain and meat) are running dry while our leaders spout off about the solvency of our country, and about its ability to attract loans (without interest, no doubt) from such international organizations as the IMF and BIRD.

These quantitative data ought not hide from us the economic and social dimensions of the agricultural catastrophe.

The grain deficit will probably entail a bill of 200 billion centimes to be used to pay for the necessary imports (more than 30 million quintals). Thanks to our leaders and to the elevated sense of their responsibilities, we import sugar at prices far higher than those on the world market. During this time, phosphate profits are eaten away, and those from tourism make one laugh less than the 20 million tourists promised in the year 2000 by Mr Ahmed Alaoui.

On the social level, the drought and its effects have provoked a huge disaster amongst growers and stock raisers. These farmers, who are situated mainly in the prairie, have made expenditures for very little or no production at all. Their material situation is critical.

If before they went very seldom to market for their cereal needs, they are now obliged to resort to it not only for production needs (seeds), but also to feed themselves. Grain prices have now galloped ahead to ceilings beyond the range of the purses of small farmers (200 to 300 dirhams per quintal).

Livestock raisers have suffered greatly from the effects of the drought. When one considers that 90 percent of all livestock raisers have very small herds (0 to 50 sheep and 0 to 10 cows), the social dimension of the disaster only takes on greater importance. To the effects of the drought may be added the cascading increases in the price of feed.

The small farmer had the "choice" between sustaining his emaciated stock or selling it off in the markets where prices have hit rock-bottom. Cows were sold for 200 to 300 dirhams--sheep were barely worth 20 dirhams a head....

Faced with this situation, public officials have made more noise than concrete action aimed at stopping the fall of farmers' revenues. The amounts of food imports are small: their allocation to the bureaucrats for distribution only make their effectiveness less likely to stamp out the real problems of the small farmer.

On the other hand, the state showed more interest for the grower in that it provided grants and financing conditions which were more than generous. Drought or not, the cost of exports is maintained by and benefits from the steady hand of the state.

In the beginning of this 1981-82 season, the rains are late in making their appearance. The rural population is greatly apprehensive. Some will proceed with the sale of their meager land holdings, to make their way by their own resources and join the rural exodus.

The scarcity of water has also provoked a veritable scandal to the extent that some people pay for water just to slake their thirst. These new and sinister "markets" have been observed in several villages. If the authorities can do nothing about the volume of the rainfall, they should, however, crack down hard on the authors of this scandal.

The facts that have just been cited are a brutal testimony which contradicts the allegations made in speeches about the reduction of social disparities. These disparities become aggravated, and there is no alternative other than that which addresses the interests of the immense majority of our rural peoples. The orientation followed for more than 20 years has demonstrated its negligence and its failures. A new direction is imperative.

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